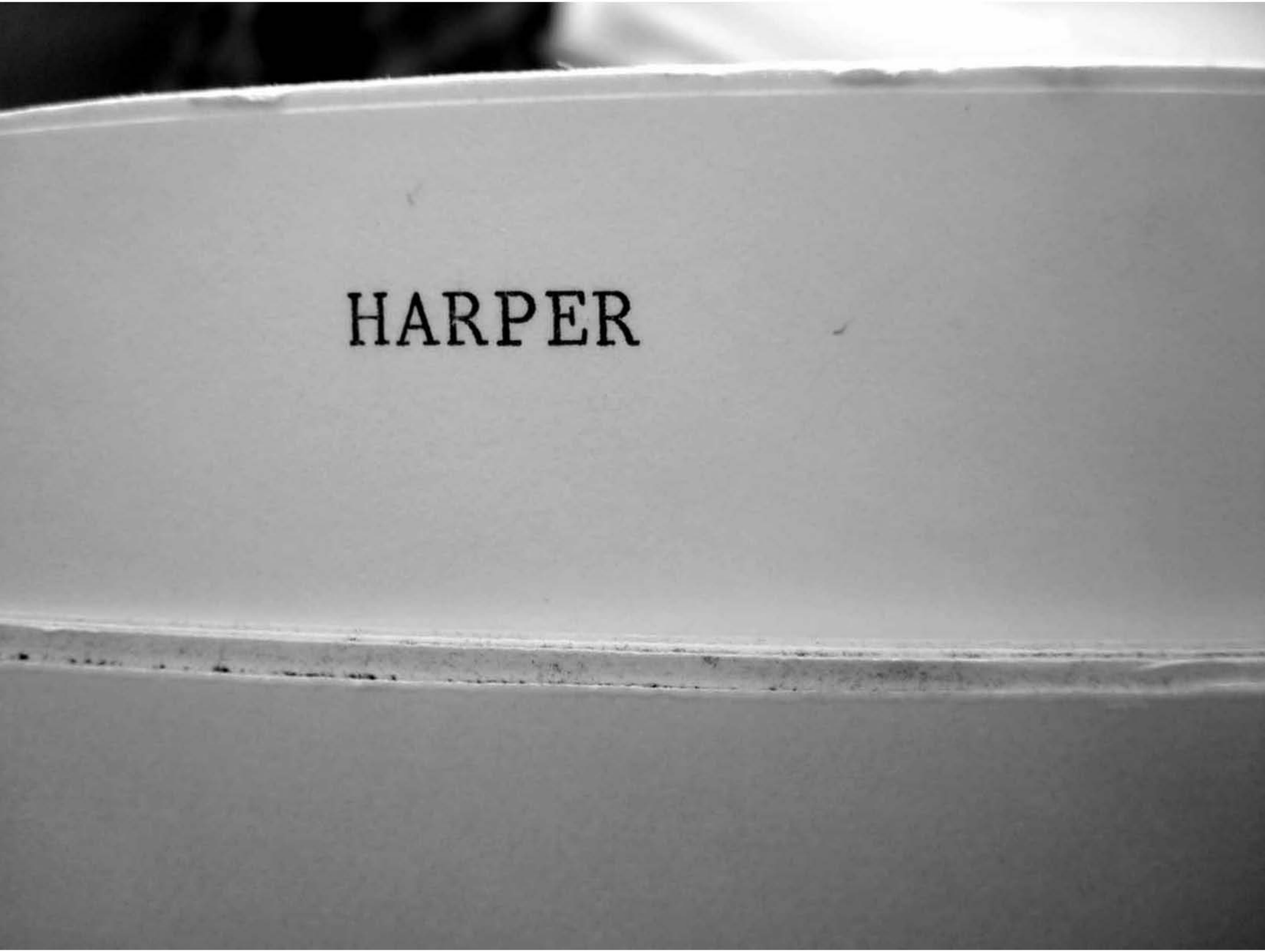
HARPER

HARPER HISTORY

I. John Mitchel Lochtner (Lightner) immigrated from Leipsic, Germany in 1732 with his wife.

1. Joseph Lightner
2. William Lightner (born 1730) married Elizabeth Ann (Sally) Robey, daughter of Patric Robey. In 1809, married Mrs. Katie Sarat.

William Lightner (2) 1730-1811, served as a soldier in Captain Skiles Company, 1st. B Battalion, Lancaster C. Malitia. He also served earlier in other companies. He came to Virginia from York, Pa., with his sons and daughters in about 1790.

1. Peter Lightner (3) married Annie E. Harper, daughter of Lt. Nicholas Harper, and Elizabeth Peninger, daughter of Henry peninger.
2. William Lightner(3) Married Elizabeth Harper.
3. Adam Lightner (3) born Sept. 1760, married Susannah Harper.
4. Samuel Lightner (3) married Elizabeth Sensabaugh.
5. Christopher Lightner (3) married Catherine Zickafoose of Kentucky.
6. John Michael Lightner (3) married Elizabeth Reeder (Ryder).
7. Elizabeth Lightner (3) married Henry Harper. Died 1876,age 96.
8. Mary Lightner (3) married Adam Matheny. Migrated to Missouri.
9. Andrew Lightner (3) died in childhood.

II. Lt. Nicholas Harper (2) son of Michael and Isabel Harper, married Elizabeth Peninger. Born in Germany in 1753, died 1818 in Pendleton Co. Served in the 2nd Battalion, Augusta Co. Virginia under Captain Peter Hull.

1. Barbara Harper (3) married William Michael of Bath Co. in 1793.
2. Henry Harper (3) married Elizabeth Lightner.
3. Annie E. Harper (3) married Peter Lightner in 1796. Lived on Knapps Creek.
4. Peter Harper (3) married Susannah Simmons.
5. Elizabeth Harper (3) married William Lightner in 1796. Second husband: Nicholas Harper, son of Adam Harper.
6. Susannah Harper (3) 1777-1868, married Adam Lightner in 1798, son of William Lightner and Elizabeth Ann (Sally) Robey. Adam Lightner (1760-1843).
7. Catherine Harper (3) born 1780, married Conrad Rexrode.
8. Mary Harper (3) married Henry Swadlet.
9. Leonard Harper (3) born Nov. 6, 1797, married Phoebe Dice.
10. George Harper (3) 1799-1868. Married Margaret Wimer in 1820.
11. Sarah Harper (3) married Henry Hevner.

Henry Harper, Sr. (3) 1789-1859. Son of Lt. Nicholas Harper nad Elizabeth Peninger. Married Elizabeth Lightner, daughter of William Lightner & Sally Robey.

1. Elizabeth Harper (4) married James R. Poage.
2. Anna Harper (4) married Washington Moore.
3. Sally Harper (4) married James Malcomb. Moved to Nicholas Co.
4. Susan Harper (4) married John McCarty of Hillsboro.
5. Jacob Harper (4) married Lydia Civey of Greenbrier & the Monroe Co. Lived near Gunnet.
6. William Harper (4) married Elizabeth Civey, sister of Lydia.
7. Samuel Harper (4) married Melinda Moore.
8. Henry Harper (4) married Phoebe Sharp, daughter of Joseph Sharp and Betsy Lightner.
9. Nicholas Harper (4) died at age of 14.

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7. Samuel Harper (4) married Melinda Moore.
8. Henry Harper (4) married Phoebe Sharp, daughter of Joseph Sharp and Betsy Lightner.
9. Nicholas Harper (4) died at age of 14.

Anna Harper (4) married A. Washington Moore.
1. Sally Moore (5) married Zacariah Gum, son of James Henry Gum. Second husband: David Burnside.
2. Mary Moore (5) married John Varner & lived at Big Spring of Elk.
3. Ella Moore (5) married Benjamin Varner and moved to Iowa.
4. Newton Moore (5)
5. Zane Moore (5)
6. John Andrew Moore (5)
7. Price Moore (5)
8. Annie Moore (5) married James Loury of Huntersville. (no children)

Susan Harper (4) married John McCarty.
1. Ella McCarty (5)
2. Mrs. G. H. Curry (5)
3. Della McCarty (5)

Samuel Harper (4) married Melinda Moore. Second wife: Margaret Jane Gum.
1. Elizabeth Luema Harper (5) married Rev. James Moore.
2. Sarah Ann Harper (5) married Washington Herold near Frost.
3. Matilda Harper (5) married Francis Dever.
4. Frank Wilson Harper (5) married Phoebe Ann Gum, daughter of Henry Gum of Frost.
5. Preston Moore Harper (5) married Frances Lucretia Gum, daughter of Henry Gum.(Her brothers: James Henry Gum married Demma Gum. Zachariah Gum married Sally Moore(5).
6. William Lightner Harper (5) married Emma Hamilton, daughter of George Hamilton near Sunset.

Samuel Harper (4) married Margaret Jane Gum, daughter of John Gum.
1. America (5) married R. D. Rimel.
2. Virginia (5) died of diptheria at age 5.

Sally Moore (5) married Zachariah Gum.
1. Henry Gum (6)
2. Edmonia Gum (6) married Henry Eberting. (Daughter: Annabelle).

Sally Moore (5) married David Burnside.
1. Robert Burnside (6)
2. Mary Burnside (6) married _____ Ford.
3. Mattie Burnside (6) married Alfred Pollic.
4. Ruth Burnside (6)

Matilda Harper (5) married Francis Dever.
1. Alice Dever (6) married John Barnett.

Frank Wilson Harper (5) married Phoebe Ann Gum, daughter of Henry Gum.
1. Ernest Fletcher Harper (6) married Georgia Ann May Baxter, daughter of George Baxter and Sarah Ann Poage. Ernest born May 18, 1870.
2. Harry Wilson Harper (6) married Mary Auldridge.
3. Blanche Lucretia Harper (6) born 7/22/1879, married Jacob Beard. Second husband: John Hambrick.
4. Forest Harper (6) died of Meningitis at age 16.

Alice Dever (6) married John Barnett.
1. Florence Dever (7)
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Ernest Fletcher Harper (6) born 5/18/1870, married Georgia Ann May Baxter (born 5/17/1878.)

1. Annie Frances Harper (7) born 3/6/10, married James Kyle Rock (born 11/15/06) on 7/23/38. (married)
2. Blanche Margaret Harper (7) born 5/11/12, married Elmer Wymer, son of Eva & Robert Alexander Wymer of Cass.
3. Evalene Baxter Harper (7) married Herbert Claiborne Hawkins of Petersburg, Va. (Evalene born 11/7/13.)
4. Edna Ernestine (7) born 4/25/17, married Charles Edward Hall of Luray, Va.

Harry Wilson Harper (6) married Mary Auldridge. (Born 7/23/1877).

1. Edith March Harper (7) married Samuel Austin Burdette.
2. Windell Wardelle Harper (7) married Dora Browning of Huntington.
3. Frank Ruben Harper (7) married Grace Johnson of Marlinton.
4. Henry Lee Harper (7) married Virginia Miller.
5. Harry Julian Harper (7) married Nadine Lightner of Knapps Creek.

Blanche Lucretia Harper (6) married Jacob Beard.

1. Henry Harper Beard (7) married Elizabeth Clark. Henry born 12/19/
2. Lillian Frances Beard (7) 8/28/07-10/12/08, died from overdose 05 of Morphene.
3. Stillborn infant 7/9/04.

Annie Frances Harper (7) married James K. Rock.

1. Edward Wilson Rock (8) born 3/27/39, married Anita Susan McDougal.
2. Jane Ann Rock (8) born 12/20/44, married James H. Marshall.

Blanche Margaret Harper (7) born 5/11/12, married Elmer Wymer on 5/10/44.

1. Margaret Ruth Wymer (8) born 3/3/45, married Robert Melvin Taylor.
2. Robert Ernest Wymer (8) born 2/9/47, married Holly Elisabeth Cline.
3. Wanda Jean Wymer (8) born 1/5/52.

Evalene Baxter Harper (7) and Herbert Claiborne Hawkins.

1. Kay Hawkins (8) married Thomas Carwile.

Edna Ernestine Harper (7) married Charles Edward Hall.

1. Charla Ann Hall (8) married Samuel Hockman, who died of heart disease shortly after their marriage.
2. Charles Edward Hall (8) married Linda GONZALES

Edith March Harper (7) born 3/31/1900, died 12/1/79. Married Samuel A. Burdette.

1. John Austin "Jack" Burdette (8) married Winnie _____.
2. David Burdette (8) married Carol Huddleston. Second wife: Jean Davis.

William Wardelle Harper (7) married Dora Frances Browning.

1. Betty Jean Harper (8) married Glen Arbaugh.
2. William Windell Harper (8) married Dorothy _____.

William Wardelle Harper (7) married Jean Dirton.

1. Craig Harper (8) died at age 21.

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David Burdette (8) married Carol Huddleston.
1. Mike Burdette (9)
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David Burdette (8) married Jean Davis.
Three daughters

BettyJean Harper (8) married Glen Arbaugh.
1. Larry Arbaugh (9) married Mary Brandy.

William Windell Harper (8) married Dorothy Newman.
1. Roger Harper (9) married Teresa ____.
2. Connie Harper (9) married George Hartman.

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1. Barry Wilson Crane (9)
2. Troy Crane (9)
3. Steven Riffle Crane (9) - Foster son.

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1. Allen Harper (9)

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1. Johnnie Harper (9)
2. Jamie Harper (9)

Mary Elizabeth Harper (8) married ____Brodbeck.
1. David Brodbeck (9)

Harry Julian Harper (8) born 2/4/42, married Donna Compton.
1. Brian Scott Harper (9) born 8/9/66
2. Deren Keith Harper (9) born 7/2/69
3. Beth Ellen Harper (9) born 1/8/75

Jerry Samuel Harper (8) born 8/25/50, married Nancy Jo Schabinger.
1. Angelique Harper (9) born 8/10/69
2. Shani Lana Harper (9) born 2/22/71

Jacob Beard (8) married Linda Mae Dean, daughter of Samuel & Martha Dean.
1. Teresa Beard (9)
2. Tamara Beard (9)

Larry Arbaugh (9) married Mary Brandy.
1. Katherine Arbaugh (10)

Terry Richardson (9) married Nathalie Dolan of Greenbank.
1. Zachary Harper Richardson (10)

*( ) Number in brackets indicates generation in America.

HENRY HARPER from the Pocahontas County History Book

Among the persons whose industry, economical habits, and wise management of deversified useful industries did much for the development of our county, the name of Henry Harper, Senior, is richly deserving of respectful notice. He was a native of Pendleton Co. a son of Nicholas Harper, a native of Germany, who lived on the South Branch. Henry Harper's wife was Elizabeth Lightner, daughter of William Lightner, Senior, on Back Creek. For a few years after his marriage he lived on the Branch. About 1812, Nicholas Harper bought two hundred acres from Abram Duffield and Colonel John Baxter, on Knapps Creek, and on this purchase Henry settled.

Elizabeth Sue Harper (8) married Charles Richardson II.
1. Vickie Richardson (9) married
2. Terry Richardson (9) married Nathalie Dolan of Greenbank.

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1. Matthew Wayne Harper (9)
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The young settlers from Pendleton Co. found a few acres of cleared land. The thickets of thorn and crab apple and wild plums were almost impenetrable. The sheep, pigs, and calves had to be penned by the house to protect them from wolves and bears. By patient and persistent effort land was cleared and a home reared.

At his suggestion, William Civey, of Anthonys Creek, sunk a tan yard. Then Mr. Harper established a blacksmith shop and built the first tilt hammer in this region. This shop was carried on under his own personal supervision. Ralph Wanless, George Hevener of Pendleton Co. and the late Anthony Lightner of Swago, and others, learned the trade with him, and were all good blacksmiths. Mr. Harper also reared a flouring mill, which was operated by himself and son Samuel, chiefly. Father and son were smiths and millers and alternated in their work. William Gibson, of Huntersville, and Henry Harper were the contracters that built the Warm Springs and Huntersville turnpike sixty-five years ago. Captain William Cochran, of Stony Creek, was their principal foreman and manager in construction. In the meantime, the farm was duly attended to and much land bought and a splendid estate became his.

He had a passion for hunting, which he indulged in merely for recreation.

He died in 1859, aged 70 years. Mrs. Harper followed her husband in 1875, aged 86 years.

In personal apperance Mr. Harper was of medium stature, somewhat stooped in the shoulders. His voice was soft and flute like in tone, very quiet and retiring in his manners and leisurely in his movements, and yet his establishment was a busy hive of industry, and all moved on like clockwork.

His family consisted of five sons and four daughters; Elizabeth, Sally, Anna, and Susan. The sons were Jacob, William, Samuel, Henry and Nicholas who died at fourteen.

Jacob Harper married Lydia Civey, daughter of George Civey of Anthonys Creek, and settled on Meadow Creek, Greenbrier Co., and finally moved to Monroe Co.

William Harper married Elizabeth Civey, sister of Jacob's wife and settled on the farm now held by William L. Harper, near Sunset. His last years were passed on Greenbrier River at the Friel place, where his son William now resides.

Samuel Harper married Malinda Moore, and lives on the old homestead, where he yet resides in the 87th year of his life. Their daughter Elisabeth Luena is the widowed wife of Rev. James E. Moore. Sarah Ann married Washington Herold, near Frost. Matilda married Frances Dever. Their son, Preston Harper, married Lucretia Gum, daughter of Henry Gum, of Frost. Frank Wilson Harper married Anna Gum, sister of Mrs. Preston Harper. William Lightner Harper married Emma, daughter of George Hamilton near Sunset.

Samuel Harper's second wife was Margaret Jane, daughter of John Cox of Hiland Co. Her daughter America married R.D. Rimel, and Virginia died of diptheria at the age of five years.

Henry Harper, Jr., married Phoebe Sharp, and lived on the place now owned by Reddy Goulet, near Sunset. Their children were Peter and Rachel Ann. Peter died in early manhood. Rachel Ann married William Herold of Nicholas Co. Henry Harper, Jr., died of an accidental wound, inflicted while repairing a gate.

Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the pioneer, married the late James R. Feaga, and lived first in the Levels, on land now held by Preston Clark, and then near Edray, where they both recently died. She was an invalid for seventeen years from rheumatic affection, most of the time too weak to help herself. Her husband for many years spent most of the days and

The young settlers from Pendleton Co. found a few acres of cleared land. The thickets of thorn and crab apple and wild plums were almost impentrable. The sheep, pigs, and calves had to be penned by the house to protect them from wolves and bears. By patient and persistent effort land was cleared and a home reared.

At his suggestion, William Civey, of Anthonys Creek, sunk a tan yard. Then Mr. Harper established a blacksmith shop and built the first tilt hammer in this region. This shop was carried on under his own personal supervision. Ralph Wanless, George Hevener of Pendleton Co. and the late Anthony Lightner of Swago, and others, learned the trade with him, and were all good blacksmiths. Mr. Harper also reared a flouring mill, which was operated by himself and son Samuel, chiefly. Father and son were smiths and millers and alternated in their work. William Gibson, of Huntersville, and Henry Harper were the contracters that built the Warm Springs and Huntersville turnpike sixty-five years ago. Captain William Cochran, of Stony Creek, was their principal foreman and manager in construction. In the meantime, the farm was duly attended to and much land bought and a splendid estate became his.

He had a passion for hunting, which he indulged in merely for recreation.

He died in 1859, aged 70 years. Mrs. Harper followed her husband in 1875, aged 86 years.

In personal apperance Mr. Harper was of medium stature, somewhat stooped in the shoulders. His voice was soft and flute like in tone, very quiet and retiring in his manners and leisurely in his movements, and yet his establishment was a busy hive of industry, and all moved on like clockwork.

His family consisted of five sons and four daughters; Elizabeth, Sally, Anna, and Susan. The sons were Jacob, William, Samuel, Henry and Nicholas who died at fourteen.

Jacob Harper married Lydia Civey, daughter of George Civey of Anthonys Creek, and settled on Meadow Creek, Greenbrier Co., and finally moved to Monroe Co.

William Harper married Elizabeth Civey, sister of Jacob's wife and settled on the farm now held by William L. Harper, near Sunset. His last years were passed on Greenbrier River at the Friel place, where his son William now resides.

Samuel Harper married Malinda Moore, and lives on the old homestead, where he yet resides in the 87th year of his life. Their daughter Elizabeth Luena is the widowed wife of Rev. James E. Moore. Sarah Ann married Washington Herold, near Frost. Matilda married Frances Dever. Their son, Preston Harper, married Lucretia Gum, daughter of Henry Gum, of Frost. Frank Wilson Harper married Anna Gum, sister of Mrs. Preston Harper. William Lightner Harper married Emma, daughter of George Hamilton near Sunset.

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all of the nights a patient and helpful watcher at her bedside. Her sons were J.R. Poage, Henry Poage, and William Poage. Their daughters: Elizabeth Poage, the first wife of Rev. George P. Moore; Mary Poage, the wife of Amos Barlow; Sarah Ann Poage, the first wife of George Baxter, near Edray, and Amanda, first wife of Levi Waugh, on the old homestead.

Anna Harper was the first wife of A. Washington Moore, near Frost. Her daughter Sally married Zachariah Gum, son of the late Henry Gum. Her husband was killed by a falling limb. She was left a widow with three small children. Mary Moore married John Varner at the Big Spring of Elk. Ella Moore married Benjamin Varner and now lives in Iowa. Newton Moore, Zane Moore, J.A. Moore and Price are their sons.

Sally Harper married James Malcomb and located in Nicholas Co.

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Hickman Family History Newsletter

Box 520
Florence, MT 59833
February 10, 1997

Dear Hickman cousins:

My mother, Ruth Gertrude Hickman, died in January. Born at Sun Rise, in Bath County, Virginia, on 16 January 1908, Ruth was the fifth of seven children of Peter Lightner Hickman (1858-1937) and Ollie Gertrude Lockridge (1870-1965). She got her grammar school education in one-room schools along Back Creek but, in order to attend high school, Ruth moved across the mountains to Millboro where she lived with her two younger brothers in a small rented house. There, Ruth did the cooking, cleaning, and chauffeuring until she graduated in 1927.

She was born the year Henry Ford's Model-T was introduced, and she finished high school the last year that durable car was manufactured. Ruth learned to drive the Model-T when she was 14 and, because neither her father or mother learned to crank-start and drive a car, she, like her older brothers before her, had an important job as family driver. For the rest of her life she enjoyed driving and traveling, but Ruth did not have a car of her own until 1954 when she inherited a Plymouth that had belonged to her bachelor brother Forrest Elwood Hickman (1898-1954).

Ruth married Herman W. Gabriel Jr. (1910-1972) in 1933 and they had two sons, Herman William Gabriel III (1933-) and Henmar Ruskin Gabriel (1936-). In 1941 her husband abandoned the family to run off with a younger woman and we moved to Richmond to spend the four years of WWII living in the attic of the home of her sister, Ollie Virginia Hickman Campbell (1902-1996). There, Ruth set about "pulling herself up by her own boot-straps," and teaching her sons to be self-sufficient.

Henmar, Ruth, and Bill after the move to Richmond in 1941

Ruth Hickman Gabriel found a secretarial job with the Richmond-based construction and real estate firm of Muhleman & Kayhoe in 1941 and began working her way up in the business world. She learned the property and casualty insurance business and, at a time when very few woman held such positions, headed the insurance department of Muhleman & Kayhoe. Ruth became well known in Richmond, and Virginia, in the insurance field and was made an officer in the firm before she retired in 1969.

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In another break with conventions of the day, Ruth established her own identity and never used her husband's name —she was always Ruth H. Gabriel not Mrs. Herman W. Gabriel Jr.

M&K built commercial buildings, apartments, and houses, and at war's end we moved into one of those apartments on a trolley line and convenient to the best schools in Richmond at the time. Educating their children had always been a Hickman priority and, at a time when money was scarce and toys were few, mother bought the Compton's Encyclopedia to further our studies. Reading aloud in the evening was also a Hickman tradition encouraged by our grandmother and our mother and I am reminded of a piece of poetry that stated:

"Richer than I you will never be,
For I had a mother that read to me."

We were as poor as the proverbial church mice, but mother was thrifty and, having grown up on a use-it-up, wear-it-out, make-it-last farm taught her sons to do the same. However, there seemed little chance of Henmar and me being able to afford college until, as a winner of the Virginia Academy of Science Talent Search, I got scholarships to Va. Tech. Henmar joined the army and won a Regular Army appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. So, her sons became college graduates and went on to other accomplishments of which mother was very proud.

In 1960 Ruth accomplished another of her dreams when she was able to buy a house in the Fan District of Richmond. Best of all, it required remodeling and redecorating— things which gave her much pleasure. She also joined the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Bath County Historical Society to reestablish contact with her roots.

Ruth was fortunate to find new love in later life and in 1969 she married Edward I. Hardy and acquired a new set of children and grandchildren to delight and entertain her. Ed's death only six years later, in 1975, was devastating and I am not sure she ever really recovered from it.

After a series of strokes and a long decline in her health, Ruth Gertrude Hickman Gabriel Hardy died 2 January 1997, just a few days before her 89th birthday.

"The song is over but the melody lingers on."

Ruth Gertrude Hickman Gabriel Hardy (1908-1997)
in 1975

We lost another of the "Hickmans of Back Creek" when Lillie Rose Brinkley Rose died at her home in Newport, Virginia, on 13 December 1996. Lillie Rose Brinkley was born 3 January 1901 in McClung, Bath County, Virginia. She and her sister Cornelia received teacher certificates from the state normal school in Harrisonburg —now James Madison University. In 1921 they arrived on Back Creek to teach in two of the one-room schools. Lillie boarded

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In 1923 Lillie Brinkley married their son, Bedford Dewey Rose (1898-1960), and moved into a house that had been purchased from Emmitt Lightner by Bedford's uncle, Robert Sidney Hickman (1872-1954). Bedford and Lillie had eight children, some of whom were born after they left Back Creek in 1941 for greener pastures in Southwest Virginia. During WWII she was a government inspector at the Hercules Powder Company in Radford, and she later taught school in Giles County.

Two sons of Lillie Brinkley Rose, George Scott Rose and Lewis Kent Rose, have since "moved back" and purchased land on Back Creek downstream from where the Hickmans lived at Sun Rise.

Lillie's sister, Cornelia Brinkley, boarded with my grandparents and taught seven grades at the "Hickman School Number 2" where her teaching salary was $65 per month. From that she paid $19 a month to Ollie Lockridge Hickman (1870-1965) for room and board. That wood-frame school building stood across the road from the Puffenberger house and had been the home of my grandfather's oldest half-sister, Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Hickman Ryder (1840-1909) before becoming a school. The school closed after 1923 due to a lack of students and grandfather tore it down and used the lumber to build a granary behind his house on the other side of Joe Hollow.

In 1924 Cornelia married Walter Lawson Sively from a bit further down Back Creek. It is in the Sively Cemetery that my grandfather, great-grandfather, and other Hickmans are buried.

Now the old Sively farm is owned by a grandson of Lillie Brinkley and Bedford Rose.

Another of the "Hickman cousins" was quite sick in the hospital at Hot Springs recently. She is Louise "Sue" Hepler (1913-), one of three children of Forrest Franklin Hepler (1884-1939), and grand-daughter of Matilda Margaret Hickman (1854-1939), who was another sister of my grandfather. In 1933 Sue married George Brown Venable (1913-1987) and they had one son, George Franklin Venable (1934-1989). For many years their house on the road between Millboro and Warm Springs was marked by a fancy mailbox in the shape of Uncle Sam.

Sue had a broken hip, pneumonia, and a series of strokes and I have heard that she is now living at the nursing home on the hill near Hot Springs.

Murray C. Hepler (1910-1971) and Louise "Sue" Hepler (1913-)
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Sue Hepler's brother Murray married Lillian Corbett (1912-1977) and they had two daughters —Marian Carol Hepler (1936-) and Norma Jean Hepler (1938-). Lillian and Murray

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Forrest Franklin Hepler (1884-1939), father of Sue and Murray, owned the first Ford dealership in Bath County. In those days the Model-T's were shipped to him on the railroad in freight cars. However, to save space and freight costs, the autos arrived in "knocked-down" condition with the frames, axles, wheels, bodies, gas tanks, etc. in separate boxes or hanging on the walls of the freight car. After paying his bill at the railroad freight office, Hepler could open the box car and have his employees remove the Ford parts for assembly into automobiles. Think about that the next time you hear someone complain about having to assemble a bike or other present at Christmas.

Those early Fords could be ordered without a windshield, bumpers, lights, and other parts unnecessary on the terrible roads of the day. The chain of Western Auto stores so familiar in my youth was initiated to supply such after-market parts and accessories for the Model-T.

Forrest Franklin Hepler's garage, Millboro, Virginia
the first Ford automobile dealership in Bath County

My uncle Forrest Elwood "Si" Hickman (1898-1954) worked for *his* uncle, F. F. Hepler, in that garage and he lived in a room on the second floor. One Thanksgiving holiday —but I do not know the year— uncle Si went to Roanoke for the annual VPI-VMI football game and returned to Millboro to find the F. F. Hepler garage burned to the ground and all his belongings burned with it. Si then moved to Elkton where he eventually owned two service stations of his own.

F. F. Hepler also owned a garage at Mitchelltown where another of my uncles, Clare Brown Hickman (1905-), worked. Hepler had cars to rent, but in those days when one hired a car it came with a driver and that was the job of Clare B. Hickman. He drove all those rocky, rutted, muddy mountain roads in all sorts of weather before moving to Staunton to run his own gas station and eventually become a bailiff of the Augusta County Court.

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare asks, "What's in a name? that which we call a rose,
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One of the mysteries I have encountered in this compilation of the descendants of my ancestors in Bath and Pocahontas counties is the origin and meaning of the name **Lanty**. It

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appears first with the naming of Lanty Lockridge in 1777, who named his son Lanty Lockridge in 1818. Then seven of the first Lanty's grandsons were named Lanty. Two were called Lanty Lockridge, another was named Lanty Rucker, a fourth was Lanty Seibert, a fifth grandson was Lanty Lockridge Slaven, a sixth was called Washington Lanty Lockridge, and the last was named Lanty William Hickman. In 1849 a great-grandson was named Lanty Washington Herold. So, the Lockridges used that name through four generations and then it disappeared.

Occurrence of the name Lanty —used for about 100 years, from 1777 to 1872— in the Lockridge and Hickman families

1. Andrew **Lockridge** (1730-1791) married 1761 to Jane (Jean ?) Graham (1742-1796)
2. **Lanty Lockridge** (1777-1858) married 1802 to Elizabeth Benson (1779-1861) Minnehaha Springs, W.Va.
3. Margaret **Lockridge** (1803-?) married (?) to Ephraim Rucker (?-?)
4. **Lanty Rucker** (?-?)
3. Rebecca **Lockridge** (1804-1885) married (?) to Joseph F. Seibert (1801-1881)
4. **Lanty Seibert** (?-1864) —a soldier in the CSA, died a prisoner of war at Elmira, N.Y.—
4. Maria Seibert (?-?) married (?) to Andrew Herold (?-?)
5. **Lanty Washington Herold** (1849-1918) married 1881 to Laura L. **Lockridge** (1859-1908)
3. Elizabeth Lockridge (?-?) married 1825 to Henry Simmons Herold (1800-1890)
4. Washington **Lanty Herold** (?-?) married (?) to Sarah Anne Harper (?-?)
3. Eleanor "Nelly" **Lockridge** (?-?) married 1825 to Jacob Gillespie Slaven (?-?)
4. **Lanty Lockridge Slaven** (?-?) married (?) to Isabella Burner (?-?)
3. Andrew **Lockridge** (1812-1854) married 1836 to Elizabeth Gillilan (?-1854) moved to Missouri
4. **Lanty Lockridge** (?-?)
3. Mathias **Lockridge** (?-?) married (?) to ? Crow (?-?) in Missouri
4. **Lanty Lockridge** (?-?)
3. Martha Ann **Lockridge** (1816-25/V/1843) married 1838 to **Roger Hickman** (1813-1889)
4. **Lanty William Hickman** (1838-1906) married 1859 to Mary Angeline Wiley (1841-1891)
3. **Lanty Lockridge,** Jr. (1818-?) married 1854 to Caroline Elizabeth Cleek (?-?)

The name hopped over to the Hickmans when Roger Hickman married Martha Ann Lockridge and, using the names of both his grandfathers, named their first child Lanty William Hickman in 1838. Two of that Lanty's Hickman cousins were also named Lanty. Were Lanty Stuart Hickman (1872-1955) and Lanty P. Hickman (?-?) named for their cousin, Lanty William Hickman? Or were they named for a Lockridge neighbor in West Virginia? Does anyone know anything about Lanty P. Hickman (?-?)?

1. Arthur **Hickman** (1712/13-1779) Montgomery Co., Md. son of William Hickman of Somerset Co., Md.
2. Roger **Hickman** (1730-1827) married (?) Margaret Davis (?) moved to Back Creek
3. William **Hickman** (1770-1843) married 1799 to Mary Elliott (1771-1842)
4. James Elliott **Hickman** (1804-1885?) married 1831 to Elizabeth E. Hamilton (1812-ca.1857)
5. James William **Hickman** (1834-1908) married 1857 to Mary Ann Marley (1838-1915)
6. **Lanty Stuart Hickman** (1872-1955) first married (?) Dora Lane (?-?)
5. George **Hickman** (1838-1891) married (?) to Martha Morrison (1841-1905) Clay Co., W.Va.
6. **Lanty P. Hickman** (?-?)
4. Roger **Hickman** (1813-1889) married 1838 to Martha Ann **Lockridge** (1816-1843) daughter of Col. Lanty **Lockridge** of Pocahontas Co.
5. **Lanty William Hickman** (1838-1906) married 1859 to Mary Angeline Wiley (1841-1891) served in Co. F, 11 Va. Cav. Reg., CSA

Lanty is not, from any information I have, an abbreviation of Lancelot, even though some of the "county histories" and "family histories" have made that assumption. I have seen no letters or original documents using Lancelot, although there is one letter referring to Roger Hickman's son as Landreth. So: where did the name come from? Was it Scottish? What did it mean? Where has it gone?

Help in solving this puzzle will be appreciated.

The second Roger's first son, Lanty William Hickman, was a cavalryman in Company F, 11th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Confederate States Army. Lanty's great-grandson, Edwin Beecher Brown, is researching the history of the 11th Va. Cav. He tells me that it was part of the Laurel Brigade, formed from Ashby's Cavalry and that he has found so much material

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3. Rebecca **Lockridge** (1804-1885) married (?) to Joseph F. Seibert (1801-1881)
4. **Lanty Seibert** (?-1864) —a soldier in the CSA, died a prisoner of war at Elmira, N.Y.—
4. Maria Seibert (?-?) married (?) to Andrew Herold (?-?)
5. **Lanty Washington Herold** (1849-1918) married 1881 to Laura L. **Lockridge** (1859-1908)
3. Elizabeth Lockridge (?-?) married 1825 to Henry Simmons Herold (1800-1890)
4. Washington **Lanty Herold** (?-?) married (?) to Sarah Anne Harper (?-?)
3. Eleanor "Nelly" **Lockridge** (?-?) married 1825 to Jacob Gillespie Slaven (?-?)
4. **Lanty Lockridge Slaven** (?-?) married (?) to Isabella Burner (?-?)
3. Andrew **Lockridge** (1812-1854) married 1836 to Elizabeth Gillilan (?-1854) moved to Missouri
4. **Lanty Lockridge** (?-?)
3. Mathias **Lockridge** (?-?) married (?) to ? Crow (?-?) in Missouri
4. **Lanty Lockridge** (?-?)
3. Martha Ann **Lockridge** (1816-25/V/1843) married 1838 to **Roger Hickman** (1813-1889)
4. **Lanty William Hickman** (1838-1906) married 1859 to Mary Angeline Wiley (1841-1891)
3. **Lanty Lockridge,** Jr. (1818-?) married 1854 to Caroline Elizabeth Cleek (?-?)

The name hopped over to the Hickmans when Roger Hickman married Martha Ann Lockridge and, using the names of both his grandfathers, named their first child Lanty William Hickman in 1838. Two of that Lanty's Hickman cousins were also named Lanty. Were Lanty Stuart Hickman (1872-1955) and Lanty P. Hickman (?-?) named for their cousin, Lanty William Hickman? Or were they named for a Lockridge neighbor in West Virginia? Does anyone know anything about Lanty P. Hickman (?-?)?

1. Arthur **Hickman** (1712/13-1779) Montgomery Co., Md. son of William Hickman of Somerset Co., Md.
2. Roger **Hickman** (1730-1827) married (?) Margaret Davis (?) moved to Back Creek
3. William **Hickman** (1770-1843) married 1799 to Mary Elliott (1771-1842)
4. James Elliott **Hickman** (1804-1885?) married 1831 to Elizabeth E. Hamilton (1812-ca.1857)
5. James William **Hickman** (1834-1908) married 1857 to Mary Ann Marley (1838-1915)
6. **Lanty Stuart Hickman** (1872-1955) first married (?) Dora Lane (?-?)
5. George **Hickman** (1838-1891) married (?) to Martha Morrison (1841-1905) Clay Co., W.Va.
6. **Lanty P. Hickman** (?-?)
4. Roger **Hickman** (1813-1889) married 1838 to Martha Ann **Lockridge** (1816-1843) daughter of Col. Lanty **Lockridge** of Pocahontas Co.
5. **Lanty William Hickman** (1838-1906) married 1859 to Mary Angeline Wiley (1841-1891) served in Co. F, 11 Va. Cav. Reg., CSA

Lanty is not, from any information I have, an abbreviation of Lancelot, even though some of the "county histories" and "family histories" have made that assumption. I have seen no letters or original documents using Lancelot, although there is one letter referring to Roger Hickman's son as Landreth. So: where did the name come from? Was it Scottish? What did it mean? Where has it gone?

Help in solving this puzzle will be appreciated.

The second Roger's first son, Lanty William Hickman, was a cavalryman in Company F, 11th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Confederate States Army. Lanty's great-grandson, Edwin Beecher Brown, is researching the history of the 11th Va. Cav. He tells me that it was part of the Laurel Brigade, formed from Ashby's Cavalry and that he has found so much material

about where Lanty's company was at various times during the war that there could be a chapter in the Hickman history on just that topic.

Lanty William Hickman (1838-1906), Confederate States Army
son of Roger Hickman (1813-1889) and Martha Ann Lockridge (1816-1843)

Lanty had two cousins in the Confederate Army —William Bradshaw Hartman (1843-1920) and Peter Newton Hartman (1845-1923), grandchildren of his aunt, Jane Elliott Hickman and William Bradshaw. Both served in Co. F, 19th Virginia Cavalry, CSA, and William B. Hartman received a leg injury. A first-cousin, Archibald Hickman (1845-1912) son of James Elliott Hickman and Betsey Hamilton, may have served as a private in Co. D, 22nd Virginia Infantry, CSA, but the scanty info I have is not clear. Can any of you help fill in their histories?

George Cline Bond (1920-) kindly sent me copies of the service records of two sons of Huldah Shallum Hickman who were soldiers in the Union Army. The first to enlist was Woods B. Callison (1838-1925) who joined Company G, 50th Illinois Infantry Regiment on 24 September 1861 at Quincy, Illinois. At his time of enlistment Woods was 5 feet 6 1/2 inches tall, weight 150 pounds, had gray eyes, and gave his occupation as farmer. He served three years as a sergeant and was discharged on 27 September 1865 in Rome, Georgia. I wonder if he was with Sherman on his march through Georgia?

Victor Lesure Callison, (1844-1921) enlisted in Company I, 72nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Chicago, Illinois, on 14 August 1862. He was 5 feet, 6 inches tall, with gray eyes and brown hair, and listed his occupation as farmer. Victor served with General U. S. Grant on the Mississippi River and was wounded at Vicksburg in June 1863. He lost the sight in his left eye and had impaired vision in the right. Victor L. served two more years and was discharged on 29 May 1865 in Washington, D.C. He later received a veteran's pension of $24 per month as an invalid.

He was only a private soldier, but a photo shows Victor L. Callison wearing the coat of an Union officer. It may have been a prop, because it was customary for the studio photographers of the time to keep clean officer-style coats for the use of anyone having their photos taken. Therefore, one cannot reliably determine the rank or organization of Civil War era soldiers from the way they were dressed in photos made in a studio.

Lanty W. Hickman was a first-cousin of the Callison brothers but, fortunately, they did not meet in battle.

Do any readers of this newsletter have other information about the military service of these, or other, Hickmans in the Civil War? If so, please send me a note on who, what, where, and when. Are there any other Civil War era photos of Hickmans?

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Son of Huldah Shallum Hickman (1806-1888) and Isaac Callison (1804-1880)
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I have been compiling the letters of Lanty W. Hickman, his daughter Mattie Lockridge Hickman (1879-1967) and two of her children —Frank Edwin Mower (1899-1956) and Donald Roger Mower (1910-1964)— telling something of how they became millionaires in the West Virginia hardwood lumber business. The Mowers owned the town of Cass, W.Va., with its sawmill, shops, and houses, and the Greenbrier, Cheat & Elk Railroad that are now within a state park. They also owned the town of Nallen, W.Va., with a sawmill, office, store, boarding house, and some forty dwellings. Mower also had sawmills at Dailey, Omar, Rupert and Marmet, W.Va., and an important portion of their business was exporting hardwood lumber to South America.

Mattie Lockridge Hickman Mower also had a farm, called "Frankholme," near Mint Spring, Va., and Frank Edwin Mower owned an estate near Charles Town, W.Va., called "Claymont Court," and another large farm near Deerfield, Va., that he called "Poca Dot Farms" (for Pocahontas Co. and his wife Dorothy).

Frank Edwin Mower had invested in **The Hickman Producing Company** which seems to have been an oil and gas company with wells in Oklahoma. Does anyone know anything about that company? From which Hickmans did it derive its name?

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Brother of Mattie Lockridge Hickman was in lumber business in W.Va. His nephew, Frank Edwin Mower joined him in business in 1924.

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Witchers Creek Lumber Company
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All this will add another interesting chapter to the history of the Hickmans of Back Creek.

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Another mystery in the history of this family is why there are no letters from some of the siblings and children of the second Roger Hickman (1813-1889). The following list of names shows the number of letters that I have found that were written by the Hickmans of Back Creek and their children.

Number of letters found from the various Hickmans	
3. William **Hickman** (1770-1843)	—0—
4. **Martha Elliott "Patsy" Hickman** (1800-1875)	1 and 1 from her husband
5. William H. Taylor (1812-1902)	1 and two books he authored
5. Archibald Taylor (1830-?)	2
4. **Jane Elliott Hickman** (1802-ca.1841)	—0—
4. **Arthur Hickman** (1803-1884)	1
5. William W. **Hickman** (1828-?)	2
4. **James Elliott Hickman**(1804-1885)	—0—
5. Hamilton Burton **Hickman** (1857-1926)	—0—
6. John M. **Hickman** (1881-1942)	2
6. Russell Murray **Hickman** (1895-1954)	2
4. **Huldah Shallum Hickman** (1806-1888)	5 and 1 from her husband
5. Minda Ann Callison (-1933)	1
6. Mable Edith Bond (1889-1967)	3 written for her by Anna M. Mcginnis
4. **William P. Hickman** (1810-1864)	78
4. **Andrew Johnson Hickman** (1811-1880)	9
4. **Roger Hickman** (1813-1889)	5
5. Lanty William **Hickman** (1838-1906)	1
6. Mattie Lockridge "Lockie" **Hickman** (1879-1967)	3
7. Frank Edwin Mower (1899-1956)	19
7. Donald Roger Mower (1910-1964)	3
5. Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" **Hickman** (1840-1909)	6
5. Virginia Alice "Jennie" **Hickman** (1848-1933)	3 and 2 from her husband
5. Thomas Brown **Hickman** (1849-1928)	—0—
6. Sallie Dawson **Hickman** (1885-1978)	1
6. Mary Brown "Brownie" **Hickman** (1887-1975)	11
5. Emma Susan Sabina **Hickman** (1852-1919)	3 and 3 from her husband
5. Matilda Margaret **Hickman** (1854-1935)	—0—
5. **Peter Lightner "Pete" Hickman** (1858-1937)	2 , but many from his wife
5. Robert Sidney **Hickman** (ca.1872-1954)	1

There are several things strange about this list. The most obvious is that there are no letters from Jane Elliott Hickman, James Elliott Hickman, or their children. I wonder if they did not write to their brother Roger at the ancestral home, or if they wrote but he did not save their letters. In either case, the question is why? Was there some reason for ill feelings and lack of correspondence?

Another question is why there are no letters from the children of William P. Hickman (1810-1864) and Andrew Johnson Hickman (1811-1880). Those two men accounted for the largest volume of surviving correspondence, and there is evidence that Andrew lived in Pulaski County with William's survivors in 1875 and that William P. Hickman's children had some contact with Roger on Back Creek into the 1880's. If they wrote to Back Creek the letters have been lost.

There are few surviving letters written by the second Roger or his son Peter Lightner Hickman, largely because they were the ones saving the correspondence and they could hardly save their own letters —although Roger managed to do a bit of that by asking his brother and his daughter to return letters to him. I had hoped, when I started this project, to find some of Roger's letters to his siblings squirreled away somewhere in the family papers of one of their descendants, but nothing has turned up.

Roger and Peter were both justices of the Bath County Court, ruling elders in the Presbyterian church, and farmers who should have had reasons to correspond with a variety of persons outside the family. It would be nice to find some of those letters also. Thomas Brown Hickman and Robert Sidney Hickman were also in business and Robert, in particular, should have left a long paper trail in his capacity as the manager of the Pocahontas Supply Co., the large "company store" in Cass, W.Va., and as a justice of the Pocahontas County Court.

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25 May 1875
Ruling Elder ...**Andrew J. Hickman** of Nicholas W.Va. being present, were invited to sit as corresponding members. *[Andrew Johnson Hickman (1811-1880) brother of William P. Hickman, I have nine letters written by him between 1833 and 1855 from Greenbrier and Nicholas counties, then contact was lost. Here he is 20 years later in Pulaski County, and maybe staying at the home of his sister-in-law.]*

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Session then adjourned to meet at the House of Mrs. **M. R. Hickman** on the 25th day of Dec....*[she was the widow of the Rev. William P. Hickman]*

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Mrs. **Florence J. Hickman**, wife of **James B. Hickman**, was, on certificate of membership & dismission from the Grace Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., admitted to the communion & fellowship of this church. *[Florence J. "Fannie" Sneade (1857-1878?) married to James Brown Hickman in Richmond, Va., on 27 January 1875 by the Rev. Moses D. Hoge]*

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Deacons ... absent Wm. A. Chumbley (having removed to Nebraska with his family).

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Mrs. **Florence B. Hickman** & her two baptized children, George & Charles Lewis, were at her own request, dismissed to unite with the 2nd Church, Richmond, (Dr. M. D. Hoge's.) *[James and Florence had, as far as I know, three children identified as son, daughter, George H. (1877-1923), however this entry is a great mystery because one of William P. Hickman's descendants told me she died in 1878. James B. Hickman is reported to have taken another wife in 1880 in Iowa, and a third in 1885 in Nebraska.]*

4 April 1891
The following named were ordered to be placed on the retired list....**J.B. Hickman**,... *[he was living in Nebraska, and died there in 1908, but the Bell Spring church had lost track of him]*

This makes me wonder if James Brown Hickman abandoned his wife and children, or if they were divorced, before he went west and acquired two more wives and additional children. I have not been able to find a death certificate for Florence or a divorce decree, but something may eventually turn up.

James Brown Hickman may be a black sheep, but he was not the only one in the family, and sometimes they add spice to the tale. We should not hide the stories of those ancestors whose conduct or accomplishments do not "measure up," but I have found old letters suggesting that those compiling the family history do exactly that to "avoid embarrassment."

I hope that none of you are hiding black sheep from the rest of the flock.

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RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

HARDY

Ruth Hickman Gabriel Hardy of Richmond died January 2, 1997, just a few days before her 89th birthday. Born at Sun Rise near Warm Springs in Bath County, Va. on January 16, 1908, Ruth was one of seven children of Peter L. and Ollie L. Hickman. She attended one-room schools in Bath County for her grammar school education. In order to attend high school, Ruth moved to Milboro where she lived with her two younger brothers in a small rented house. There, Ruth did the cooking, cleaning, and chauffeuring until she graduated. One of Ruth's fondest memories was of being the sole graduate of Milboro High in 1927. Her situation made the newspapers from coast to coast because M. L. Combs of Richmond, the supervisor of the research division of the Virginia State Board of Education, traveled 196 miles to address the graduating class of one. Ruth married Herman W. Gabriel Jr. in 1933 in Richmond and they had two sons. She entered the insurance business with the local firm of Muhleman & Kayhoe in 1941. At a time when few women held such positions, Ruth H. Gabriel became well known in the field and was an officer in the firm before she retired in 1969. Ruth H. Gabriel and Edward I. Hardy were married in 1969 and she acquired a new set of children and grandchildren to delight and entertain her. Ed preceded Ruth in death in 1975. Ruth Gabriel Hardy had lived at The Hermitage since 1987. Survivors include two sons, Herman W. Gabriel III, Montana, and Henmar R. Gabriel, Texas; a stepson, Edward I. Hardy Jr., Richmond; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Richard M. Lewis, North Carolina and Mrs. William E. Welsh, Ohio; twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two of her six brothers and sisters: Clare B. Hickman, Staunton, and Harry H. Hickman, Tenn. Her remains rest at the Bliley Funeral Home's Central Chapel, 3801 August Ave. where the family will receive friends 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday. Graveside services will be conducted 11 a.m. Monday in Westhampton Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to The Hermitage Home in her name.

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Hickman Family History Newsletter

Box 520
Florence, MT 59833
October 30, 1995

Dear Hickman cousins:

I have been working on the history of the Hickmans of Back Creek for some five years now, beginning with the six file drawers of old family letters, deeds, photos, etc. that I inherited and then adding the letters and other documents collected in the past two years. There are now three volumes totaling about 1,400 pages in draft form in my computer. In September I printed a draft of the first 300+ pages that take the Hickmans from about 1770 to about 1890 and sent it out to several people for a critical review of the content. That is the third draft version of that portion of the history and is a radical revision from what some of you had read in the earlier drafts.

Revisions are a result of new information, and/or a new interpretation of old data. As various people send me "stuff" I get to know our ancestors better and have a clearer idea of who they were, who their neighbors were, how they lived, and how they fit into the history of our country. The information about Hickmans of yore keeps trickling in from the most unexpected places, and I will use the following photo to illustrate that point.

Six Hickman cousins at Sun Rise on Back Creek, August 1944. Left to right: "Bud" Wilt, "Bill" Gabriel, Henmar Gabriel, Kathleen "Jimmie" Hickman, Carolyn Hickman, Lorelei Wilt.

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The photo was taken of us kids standing on a rock wall and rock fireplace built by my father (but that is another story) in the yard of my grandmother' farm on Back Creek. I always knew the place as Sun Rise, but after I began writing this history I realized Sun Rise was not the name of the farm, but the name of a locality and its post office.

The postmaster of the Sun Rise post office from 1902 to 1936 was my grandmother, Ollie Gertrude Lockridge Hickman (1870-1965), and it did business through the dining room window of her home. Before that her sister, Minnie Herman Lockridge Gwin, was the Sun Rise postmaster from 1890 to 1902 and the post office must have been in her home down the creek a bit. From 1880 to 1888 the postmaster was Laura Eugenia Hickman (1856-1888), a sickly woman who never married and who died of Bright's disease. She was succeeded by her step-mother, Rebecca Ann Lowry Hickman (1835-1896), the third wife of my great-grandfather, Roger Hickman (1813-1889), and during their tenure the Sun Rise post office was at the Hickman ancestral home place a mile down the creek from what I had known as "Sun Rise" as a child.

Howard William "Bud" Wilt (1934-1989) and Lorelei Loraine Wilt (1933-1994) in the photo were the children of Minnie Lee Hepler (1908-1987). Lorelei married Andrew Allen Peterson (?-?) and he works for Boeing in Pennsylvania. Last month I had a phone call from David R. Poling who happens to work with Andy Peterson. They had been talking about my family history and it turned out that Dave Poling is a descendant of Gottlieb Hartman who came to Pennsylvania in the 1700's. Gottlieb's son William Hartman was one of the "Pennsylvania Dutch" settlers in the mountains of Virginia, and he married Sophia Cleek, from another German family that is also related to my (English) Hickmans and (Scots-Irish) Lockridges. William Hartman and Sophia had a son, Isaac Vernon Hartman, who married Nancy Bradshaw (1819-1864). They are buried in a Hartman family cemetery near Green Bank, Pocahontas County, W.Va.

Nancy Bradshaw was a favorite niece of the second Roger Hickman (1813-1889) and his brother William P. Hickman (1810-1864) who mentioned her in many of his letters. All I had known about Nancy's place in the family tree had come from the will of her grandfather and some letters from her uncles and aunt, as follows:

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4. **Jane Elliott Hickman** (27/I/1802-ca.1841) married 2/VII/1818 to William Bradshaw (?-?) who had been a soldier in the War of 1812.
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It turns out that David Poling is also related to the Peter Hull who sold "140 acres being part of a tract of 280 acres, lying on Back Creek a branch of Jackson's River" to Roger Hickman in 1796. It was on that tract that Roger's grandchildren were born. So, David Poling and Patricia Hruska added greatly to our collective knowledge of the Hickmans of Back Creek and I appreciate their contributions.

In July I heard from W. Clay Hamilton, Jr. in Maryland, a descendant of the Hamiltons that lived on Back Creek in the 1700's and 1800's. There were two lines of Hamiltons and he was able to help me sort them out and add data to family trees that I had started for them because they are mentioned in Hickman letters, wills, and deeds, and because they married Hickmans on Back Creek as follows:

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Virginia Alice Hickman was in love with the neighbor boy, Joseph Hamilton, and when he went to California to make his fortune after the Civil War, she vowed to wait for his return. It was twenty-six years before Joe returned to Back Creek. Virginia and Joe were married April 18, 1890, in the home of her sister, Emma Susan Sabina Hickman Bulger. She went with him to Julian, California, a mining town near San Diego. She was then 42 years old

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Next came a package from the Rev. Joe McCoy of Belspring, Va., who is now the pastor of the church served by the Rev. William P. Hickman when he was killed in the Civil War. He sent me twenty years of records of his church, from the time of its founding in 1844 as the White Glade church, to 1851 when the name was changed to Bell Spring church, and then to 23 July 1864 when the Session minutes read:

"... the Rev. Mr. Blanton being present was invited to moderate the Session. members present A. G. Mathews Isaac Hudson A. Chumbley and J. M. Hoge (Elders) when Mrs Margaret M. Hickman and Miss Eliza J. Hickman were received on certificate from Blacksburg Church.

When the following paper was adopted in regard to the death of the Rev Wm P Hickman who fell (a marter to his country and the cause of religion) mortaly woundid on the 9th of May 1864 and died on the 11th.

'The Session of Bell Spring church in entering upon record an expression of there feelings & views upon the occasion of the death of there late pastor Rev Wm. P. Hickman would in the first place render thanks to God on behalf of the church & congregation that they were permitted for more than twenty years to sit under his ministry & to have him among them as a neighbor for the greater part of that time. We feel that not only the church has lost an able minster of the new Testament a workman that needith not to be ashamed and an uncommonly gifted expounder of the word of God but the Church at large which was just coming to appreciate his qualities as a minister & a man has sustained a loss not to be easily repaired. We would humbly submit to the will of our hevenly Father in this rare dispensation of his Providence and pray that we may be enabled to profit by it and to be more stired up to ernest

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fathful labours & diligence in our master's working that we may will to mind the many rich lessons of wisdom recieved from our late beloved paster ... and put them in practice & follow him as he followed Christ And while we are prone to think that our Paster was taken away too soon while just in the prime of his usefulness & zeal for his Master's glory we would call in such thoughts & be still & know that he that did is God and we would rejoice in the in the full assurance that our loss is our departed friends eternal gain & that not too soon comes the Masters crown not too soon the joy of Heaven where the wicked cease from troubling & the weary are at rest.'

Session adjourned. Closed with prayer.
J. M. Hoge clk"

I have 78 letters written by William P. Hickman to his brother Roger from 1832 to 1859 and they form a large part of my Hickman history manuscript. The materials from Joe McCoy add some details and color to that history. He has tried to find descendants of William P. Hickman still living in the area, but with no success so far. That seems strange, because there are many people in Pulaski and Wythe counties with the same surnames as William's grandchildren — maybe they are unaware of their "ancient ancestors."

Interestingly, many of the people mentioned in the material sent by Joe McCoy are Hoges. And some are ancestors of Marian Hoge MacKenzie so I sent her a copy of my transcription of the handwritten records.

John and Shirley Frey Morris checked in again with more information about our Scots-Irish Lockridge and Campbell connections. As many of you know, my great-grandfather, Roger Hickman (1813-1889), had three wives and eighteen children. His first wife was Martha Ann Lockridge (1816-1843), a daughter of Col. Lanty Lockridge of Pocahontas County. They had three children, and one of their many great-grandchildren is Edwin B. Brown.

Ed Brown's daughter, Martha Anne, was married this summer to John Edwin Russell. They had a big wedding at Ash Lawn, the former home of President James Monroe, in Albemarle County. Among the treasure of old Hickman papers are two land patents to William Hickman dated 14 August 1801 and signed by James Monroe when he was Governor of Virginia. They are now in the possession of Kent Rose in Maryland.

Roger Hickman (1813-1889)
son of William Hickman

Martha Ann Lockridge (1816-1843)
first wife of Roger Hickman

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son of William Hickman

Martha Ann Lockridge (1816-1843)
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3. **William Hickman** (5/VI/1770-25/X/1843) married 1799 to Mary Elliott (1/IV/1771-18/X/1842)
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5. Lanty William **Hickman** (22/X/1838-19/IX/1906) married 1859 to Mary Angeline Wiley (2/IX/1841-30/IV/1891) he served in Co. F, 11th Cav. Reg., CSA,
6. Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" **Hickman** (31/VIII/1861-1/X/1948) married (?) to James F. Folks
6. Eva **Hickman** (186?-?) married (?) to F.C. Keim (?-?)
6. Frances "Fannie" **Hickman** (18??-?) married (?) to ? Blackhart (?-?) married 25/IX/19?? to Lamar Bready
6. C. W. "Joe" **Hickman** (18??-?) married (?) to Myrtle ?
6. H. M "Mack" **Hickman** (18??-?) married (?) to Pearl ??
6. John R. **Hickman** (18??-?) married (?) to Viola ??
6. Thomas **Hickman** (?-?) —died in infancy—
6. Ida **Hickman** (?-ca.1895) married (?) to ? Cummings (?-?)
6. Mattie Lockridge "Lockie" **Hickman** (13/VII/1879-19/V/1967) married 1898 to Frank Ervin Mower (20/VIII/1877-15/X/1918)
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7. Reginald Wiley Mower (3/II/1903-7/VIII/1958) married (?) to Roberta Boyd (?-?)
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9. Edwin Roman Brown (17/II/1963-)
9. Katherine Jaroslava Brown (1/XII/1964-)
9. Martha Anne Brown (21/VI/1968-) married 7/X/1995 to John Edwin Russell (?-?)
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Ed Brown found that the grave stone for his great-grandmother, Mary Angeline Wiley (1841-1891), has an incorrect date for her death — probably because it was not placed until 1906 following the death of her husband Lanty William Hickman.

Lanty William Hickman (1838-1906)
First of Roger Hickman's eighteen children

Mary Angeline Wiley (1841-1891)
Wife of Lanty William Hickman

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Wife of Lanty William Hickman

Roger Hickman's second wife was Margaret Brown Campbell from Highland County, and she was my great-grandmother. A partial list of their descendants follows:

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The two smaller girls in the photo on page one are the daughters of my uncle, Clare Brown Hickman (1905-), who has many wonderful tales of people in Bath and Highland counties and has been a great help in the compilation of this family history. He lives in Staunton now, and a few weeks ago George Campbell Bird (1935-), from Highland County, sent me a clipping from the Staunton paper containing an article about people who get their exercise walking at the mall. It was illustrated with a photo of Clare B. Hickman who is now 90 years old.

Another cousin, Becky Gabriel McGann —from my father's family this time— sent an article from the Waynesboro paper containing an interview with, and photo of, Julian K. "Pete" Hickman II, whose father was once the Commonwealth's Attorney for Bath County and later a federal judge. Pete supervises the Virginia spinal chord injury program and was interviewed after the Christopher Reeve injury.

And, to top it off, the summer 1995 issue of *ASMP Showcase* (a quarterly from the American Society of Media Photographers) carried a profile of me and two pages of my photos.

There was another "Hickman" wedding this summer when Norma Jean Hepler Vaughan (1938-) married Robert Taylor, Sr. at the historic old Windy Cove Presbyterian Church near Millboro Springs in Bath County. She is the great-granddaughter of Matilda Margaret Hickman (1854-1835) and Charles Isaac Hepler (1851-1925). Norma Jean's grandfather was Forrest Frank Hepler (1884-1939) who had the first Ford dealership in Bath County, and who employed three or four of my uncles at various times in his auto businesses at Millboro and Mitcheltown.

The Windy Cove church was established in 1749 and was the first Presbyterian church in what would become Bath county in 1791. Tradition says that the early worshipers came armed and set a sentinel to warn of Indian attack.

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Peter Lightner Hickman & Ollie Gertrude Lockridge, 1895

The earliest typewritten letter in my collection of family papers is one written by Ollie G. Lockridge in Ohio to Peter L. Hickman at Sun Rise in 1895.

My grandfather was born on the ancestral farm on Back Creek in 1858 and among his playmates were Charles Lewis Robinson (1856-19??), John Anson Robinson (1858-192?), and Jesse Stuart Robinson (1861-192?), who were all born into slavery but remained on the Hickman farm after the late lamented war for nearly as long as my grandfather. When Peter L. Hickman went to Ohio to woo and wed Ollie in 1895, John Robinson ran the farm and sent him report of the crops and affairs of the valley. It was John's wife Martha who I mentioned in the July newsletter after I had found her gravestone in the old slave graveyard. Stuart was the last of the former slaves to live at Sun Rise on Back Creek, and he is the only one of whom I have a (very poor) photo. However, there are several photos of Susie Green, the daughter of slaves, who lived at the old home place until her death about 1928.

In trying to track down the descendants of two of Roger Hickman's brothers I have written to eleven of the county, regional, and state historical societies in West Virginia. Only three have even bothered to respond.

Elizabeth B. Wiseman, Greenbrier Historical Society, kindly sent me some information about Andrew J. Hickman (1811-1880), Arthur Hickman (1803-1884), and some the children of Andrew and of James Elliott Hickman (1804-1885). Unfortunately, the material started out by saying that the Hickmans were German, and that makes me suspicious of the accuracy of the rest of the stuff.

That is not the first time I have seen — usually in "county histories"— a claim that the Hickmans were German, and it illustrates a practice among authors of such stuff to merely copy one another rather than using primary sources or doing their own research. Another myth passed around is that the Hickmans of Back Creek originated in Delaware, but they were English and were in Virginia by 1623 when "R. Hickman, Cl. Sec. off." signed the "Laws and Orders concluded on by the General Assembly, March the 5th, 1623-4." From such experiences, I now take "county history" and "family history" books and pamphlets with a grain of salt. They can help put people in certain places, but the stories and "facts" must be checked against better data.

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Andrew Johnson Hickman (1811-1880)

I have similarly lost track of his brother Arthur Hickman (1803-1884) and Arthur's son, William W. Hickman (1828-), even though I have three letters written by them in 1850.

Another suspect source of data is the dates taken from gravestones — a sometimes unreliable source of dates because some of the stones were inscribed and placed long after the deaths of the people named, and some inscriptions were composed out of memory rather than reference to written records.

An example is the grave of Huldah Shallum Hickman (1806-188?) who married Isaac Callison (1804-1883) in Virginia and moved to Illinois in 1834. About 1880 they moved to Iowa to live with their children. Huldah's great-grandchildren in California sent me a considerable amount of material (clippings, photos, letters, etc.) on Huldah's family, and said that she had died on 26 October 1880. However, I have six letters that she wrote "home" to her brother Roger Hickman on Back Creek from 1855 to 1886. Her great-grandchildren took the date of death from her gravestone and it is certainly in error.

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Isaac Callison (1804-1883) & Huldah Shallum Hickman (1806-188?)

Grace Custer Ebneter, in Georgia, sent photos of her great-grandfather, Hamilton Burton Hickman (1857-1926), her grandfather, Russell Murray Hickman (1895-1954), and others, as well as some letters written by Russell Murray Hickman during his service in the army in WWI. Then her cousin, Brenda Hickman in West Virginia, sent me a better photo of Hamilton Burton Hickman and more family tree data, but I will have to save their contributions for the next newsletter.

After reading the latest draft of *Back Creek*, Marian Hoge MacKenzie reminded me that Arthur Hickman (1712/13-1779) had, indeed, lived briefly on Back Creek, and that his will stated:

> "I give and bequeath forever to my son Roger the half of a track of land that lies on the westernmost fork of James River which goes by the name of Back Creek …
> I give and bequeath forever to my daughter Betty the other half of same track of land afore mentioned on Back Creek which the whole track contains two hundred acres and is marked through the middle by a row of marked trees I marked myself …"

For this, and other reasons, I hope that no one is treating those drafts as gospel. If you have made copies of some pages, despite the © notice and the *Do Not Copy* watermark, please throw them away. When everything is sorted out, reviewed, edited, and printed will be the time to consider the data to be reliable. At least, I hope they will be much more accurate than the usual "family history" by then.

Best wishes, and keep the good stuff coming this way.

Bill Gabriel

Isaac Callison (1804-1883) & Huldah Shallum Hickman (1806-188?)

Grace Custer Ebneter, in Georgia, sent photos of her great-grandfather, Hamilton Burton Hickman (1857-1926), her grandfather, Russell Murray Hickman (1895-1954), and others, as well as some letters written by Russell Murray Hickman during his service in the army in WWI. Then her cousin, Brenda Hickman in West Virginia, sent me a better photo of Hamilton Burton Hickman and more family tree data, but I will have to save their contributions for the next newsletter.

After reading the latest draft of *Back Creek*, Marian Hoge MacKenzie reminded me that Arthur Hickman (1712/13-1779) had, indeed, lived briefly on Back Creek, and that his will stated:

> "I give and bequeath forever to my son Roger the half of a track of land that lies on the westernmost fork of James River which goes by the name of Back Creek …
> I give and bequeath forever to my daughter Betty the other half of same track of land afore mentioned on Back Creek which the whole track contains two hundred acres and is marked through the middle by a row of marked trees I marked myself …"

For this, and other reasons, I hope that no one is treating those drafts as gospel. If you have made copies of some pages, despite the © notice and the *Do Not Copy* watermark, please throw them away. When everything is sorted out, reviewed, edited, and printed will be the time to consider the data to be reliable. At least, I hope they will be much more accurate than the usual "family history" by then.

Best wishes, and keep the good stuff coming this way.

Bill Gabriel

Hickman Family History Newsletter

Box 520
Florence, MT 59833
July 10, 1996

Dear Hickman cousins:

My great-great-great-great-grandfather was Arthur Hickman (1712/13-1779) who acquired land at the headwaters of the James River in Augusta County, Virginia, in the mid-1700's when Virginia extended to the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. Arthur may not actually have lived on his Back Creek property because he had other interests along the Potomac River, but his will left the Back Creek lands to a daughter, Betty Hickman (?-?), and a son, Roger Hickman (1740?-1827), who was my great-great-great-grandfather. Another of Arthur Hickman's sons, Sotha Hickman (1748-??), moved further west and settled on Elk Creek in what would become Monongalia County, Virginia.

Roger Hickman had four children and two of those inherited the lands on Back Creek in what had by then become Bath County, Virginia. One son, William Hickman (1770-1843), had nine children. It was some of those children of William Hickman that wrote the letters, and saved the papers, that are the basis for my history of the Hickmans of Back Creek. They were passed down to my grandfather and then to my mother, uncles, and aunt who entrusted the treasure to me.

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1. **Arthur Hickman** (1712/13-1779)
   2. William **Hickman** (ca.1746-ca.1808) married ca.1773 to Jean Fletchall (ca.1751-ca.1781)
      married 29/VII/1781 to Nancy "Ann" Lucas (ca.1765-?)
   2. Sotha **Hickman** (1748-??) married (?) to Elizabeth Davies, moved to Elk Creek ca.1771
   2. Betty **Hickman** (?-?) married (?) James Ellis (?-?) she inherited 1/2 Arthur's property on Back Creek
   2. **Roger Hickman** (1740?-1827) married (?) Margaret Davis (?-?) he inherited 1/2 Arthur's Back Creek property
      3. Mary **Hickman** (?-?) married 6/V/1794 to John Dunlap (?-?) of Rockbridge County, Va.
      3. James M. **Hickman** (?-1851) married 1795 to Margaret Bird (?-?) he inherited 1/2 Roger's Back Cr. property
      3. John B. **Hickman** (?-?)
      3. **William Hickman** (1770-1843) married 1799 to Mary Elliott (1771-1842) he inherited 1/2 Roger's property
         4. Martha Elliott "Patsy" **Hickman** (1800-1875) married 1820 to Stuart Taylor (1796-1874)
            5. William Taylor (1821-1902) married 1846 to Isabelle Anne Kimberlin (?->1902?)
         4. Jane Elliott **Hickman** (1802-ca.1841) married 1818 to William Bradshaw (?-1850)
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            on Glade Cr., Nicholas Co., Va.
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         4. Mary **Hickman** (15/II/1808-23/III/1816)
         4. William P. **Hickman** (1810-1864) married 1843 to Margaret R. Hoge (1821-1904) killed in Civil War
         4. Andrew Johnson **Hickman** (1811-1880) married 1834 to Delilah S. Armentrout (?-1837)
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         4. **Roger Hickman** (1813-1889) married 1838 to Martha Ann Lockridge (1816-1843) he was William's heir
            married 1846 to Margaret Brown Campbell (1824-1862)
            married 1864 to Rebecca Ann Lowry (1835-1896)
            5. **Peter Lightner Hickman** (1858-1937) married 1895 to Ollie Gertrude Lockridge (1870-1965)
               6. **Ruth Gertrude Hickman** (1908-) married 1933 to Herman William Gabriel Jr. (1910-1972)
                  7. Herman William Gabriel III (1933-) that is me, your newsletter editor

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William Taylor was the author of 16 books one of which, *Story of My Life*, is still in print 100 years after its first printing. In it he tells of his parents, his uncles and aunts, and his grandfather William on Back Creek. It is a good description of life there as he remembered it fifty years later and it is worth reading. What I am seeing in my search for old Hickman family documents and family stories, however, is that people tend to pass around a few stories that they have accepted as "the word" on their ancestors. A couple decades ago it was popular to quote passages, taken out of context, from *Story of My Life*. Fortunately, I have an original 1895 copy of that 750 page autobiography, as well as letters written by William Taylor, his brother, and their father and mother to my great-grandfather, Roger Hickman (1813-1889).

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Those of you who have been reading these newsletters know that I am trying to track down the descendants of my great-grandfather's siblings to find additional old letters, photos, and stories. I have been successful in finding many descendants, some old photos, a few stories and anecdotes, but no more old letters.

A primary goal of that search has been the children left by the Rev. **William P. Hickman** after his death in the Civil War in 1864. I am delighted to have heard from four of the descendants of John Hoge Hickman (1855-1935), one of William P.'s sons. It seems that he left Pulaski County, Virginia, and went to Antelope County, Nebraska, in the mid-1870's. There he worked as a printer's helper at a newspaper, in a photography studio, and as a "bull-whacker" driving freight wagons before buying land and devoting his attention to farming. He married Maggie Jane McCartney (1860-1941) in 1877 and they had six or seven children.

One son of Hoge and Maggie, William John Hickman (1880-1949), left Nebraska during the Dust Bowl crisis in 1934 and took his family to the Willamette Valley of Oregon. His grandson, George R. Cooley (1932-), now lives in North Carolina and he has sent copies of obituaries, stories, and photos that help immensely in filling out the history of William P. Hickman's family.

Three children of John Hoge Hickman (1855-1935) born in Nebraska, with spouses in 1941
Margaret Jane Hickman (1887-1960), Edith Elizabeth Davis (1892-1983), Miranda Bird Hickman (1885-1956)
Harry C. Frady (1884-1929), William John Hickman (1880-1949), George Edward Emerick (1882-1958)

The rest of the children of Hoge and Maggie Hickman remained in Nebraska with their spouses and children. A daughter, Miranda Bird Hickman (1885-1956), married George Edward Emerick (1882-1958) and they had three daughters. I have heard from one of those daughters, Vivien Armista Emerick Yates Dodson (1907-) and two of her grandsons, Randy L. Mitchell (1954-) and Ronald P. Mitchell (1953-). Some years ago Vivien compiled a history of her Emerick and Hickman ancestors that tells of their lives in Nebraska. In it she had copies of photos of Margaret Hoge Hickman (1821-1904), her son John Hoge Hickman (1855-1935) in his first car, his wife Maggie Jane McCartney Hickman (1860-1941), and their daughter Miranda Bird Hickman (1885-1956), as well as later descendants. I am afraid, however, that Vivien had a highly romanticized idea of her great-grandfather and his family life on a

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[he lived with his sister, Kate L. Brown, in Pulaski Co. at 1880 census]
married 21/VII/1880 to Sadie Cole (3/IV/1851-23/IX/1883)
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A third offspring of William P. Hickman also made the trip to Nebraska; his eldest daughter, Mary Crockett Hickman (1846-1917) who married William A. Chumbley (1841-1917) in about 1866. They had 11 children, two of whom —twin girls Mary C. and Margaret R.— were born in Nebraska in 1881. George Cooley has a photo of Mary C. Chumbley and her first cousin, William John Hickman, taken in 1899 but I do not know whether it was taken in Virginia or Nebraska. The twin girls were married in Pulaski County, Virginia —Maggie in 1907 to W. J. Lucas, and Mary in 1908 to Jesse McC. Miller. Apparently their parents had not found what they were looking for in Nebraska and returned to Virginia with the children.

I suspect that there will be little more to learn of William P. and his wife and children, but I know there is still much to find concerning the lives of some of his siblings.

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10. Katie Cristine Bettridge (2/IX/1981-)
10. Emily Anne Bettridge (23/III/1984-)
8. William Dale Yates(13/III/1939-) married 3/IX/1961 to Marilyn Kay Bretz (?-?)
9. William Yates (?/VII/1961-)
9. Robert Yates (?/VIII/1967-)
8. Glen Jay Yates (18/V/1940-) married 3/III/1968 to Claudia Henson (?-?)
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9. Grace Yates (?/XII/1976-)
9. Scotty Yates (?/I/1980-)
8. Linda Louise Yates (7/III/1943-) married (?) to Don Grippin (?-1996?)
9. Michael Grippin (?/VI/1969-)
7. Olive Rae Emerick (17/V/1909?-5/II/1934) married 29/VIII/1928 to Lloyd Pick (1905-?)
8. Joyce Louise Pick (20/VII/1929-?)
8. George Pick (11/VII/1931-?) married (?) to ??
9. Karen Pick (?-?)
9. Carol Pick (?-?)
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4. **Andrew Johnson Hickman** (20/X/1811-24/XI/1880) married 1834 to Delilah S. Armentrout (?-2/II/1837) married 7/XI/1837 to Nancy Wallace (1813-?) he is buried on his farm near Persinger, W.Va.
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The Julian Pioneer Museum provided an unpublished history containing the following account of Joe and Jennie coming to that area:

> "Joseph E. Hamilton ... came to Julian in the seventies and settled on a ranch a few miles out of town and engaged in farming with a few cattle on the side. He was a bachelor but could be counted on in any social function.
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the dump when along came a begoggled expert and purchased the mines for an English Syndicate for $25,000.00.

The syndicate sent out a pair of 'Spats and Monocles' to open up the mines. Mister 'Spats and Monocles' built a shed for his horse, a boarding house for the workmen and promptly installed a cook. A quartz mill was in time erected. Then the ore on the dump was put through the mill and the gold went over the plates along with the tailings. Instead of declaring a dividend with the first cleanup, the mine was declared 'the bunk.' The mill shut down and a wire was sent back to the Syndicate for money on which to get home.

In the meantime J. E. Hamilton took his cut from the sale of the mine, went back to Virginia, married his old sweetheart, Virginia. He returned to Julian with his bride and continued his ranch operations until his death some years later, leaving his widow and a host of friends to mourn his loss. His widow passed away in 1933 after living with her nieces, Mary Gunn, Theola Parsons, and Sallie Miller since her husband's death."

If Joe had a one-third interest in the mine, then he must have gotten $8,333 and, if gold was worth $16 an ounce in 1889 and worth $350 an ounce now, he had made the equivalent of about $182,280 in today's funds in his mining venture. So, Joseph E. Hamilton returned to Back Creek as a wealthy man when he came to claim the hand of Virginia A. Hickman.

The three nieces mentioned were three of the four oldest daughters of Thomas Brown Hickman (1849-1928), a younger brother of Virginia Alice Hickman. He married Mary W. Payne (1846-1898) in 1881 and they had four daughters. Mary died in 1898 when the girls were 8, 11,13, and 15. In 1901 Tom Hickman took Mary Kate Whitmore (1883-?) as his second wife and they had three more children. The second wife was the same age as his oldest daughter and there must have been some conflict in the home because all four of the girls went to California to live with their aunt.

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Lt. Yarborough, Minda Ann Callison Bond, Lt. George Clair Bond, Mabel Edith Bond
with the Curtis Jenny flown to Abingdon, Ill. by George C. Bond in 1918

THE STORY OF MY FATHER, THE WORLD WAR I PILOT, WHO FLEW THE FIRST AIRPLANE EVER SEEN BY THE RESIDENTS OF ABINGDON, ILLINOIS

By George Cline Bond

My father, George Clair Bond, was the first Bond to become a military pilot, and became a local celebrity during World War I by flying to Abingdon in the first airplane which any of the residents there had seen. It was the highlight event of the summer of 1918. (My brother, Bob, was the second Bond to become a pilot and flew in the Pacific during World War II.)

Dad had gone to Chicago in July to enlist as a flying cadet in what was then called the Army Aviation Section Regiment. His enlistment was "for the period of the emergency." He was 23 years old and gave his vocation as "farmer."

He was first sent to ground school and then to flight training at Selfridge Field at Mount Clemons, Michigan. In November of that year he sent a letter to his parents thanking them for a package of warm clothes they had sent to him and wrote:

"At first we had our evenings free, but now we have a class in wireless telegraphy each evening after supper, and I understand they are going to start a class in French. We only fly of mornings so far, and have engine, shop and repair work and machine gun range of afternoons.

"I am just beginning to realize some result of my efforts in flying class. A beginner, learning to fly, sure has some ups and downs in more ways than one. Many is the time my instructor has taken the occasion to tell me how rotten I was, and then day before yesterday he turns me loose to go up alone —the first one in his class. I did well enough to please him, and yesterday I was up alone again and made five nice landings. I begin to get the feel of handling the machine now and it is a great satisfaction to go up alone, and feel you are capable of driving the ship."

The Mt. Clemons field was closed shortly thereafter and Dad was sent to Gerstner Field in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where in February 1918 he received an honorable discharge from the United States Army "by reason of acceptance of a commission as Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps, Air Service."

After about six months in Louisiana he was transferred to Scott Field in Belleville, Illinois as an instructor. One week-end the publisher of *The Abingdon Kodak*, his hometown newspaper, had been in St. Louis with another Abingdon businessman and had made a trip to nearby Scott Field to see Dad. Here they met the commandant of the field. He was congenial, affable, and proud of Dad and his friend, Sam Yarborough. He said that Dad was the safest flyer and best instructor at the post and that Yarborough was the best stunt man. It also developed that the commandant was formerly a country newspaper publisher, so he was asked to let Dad and Sam Yarborough make a trip to Abingdon in an army plane. Dad had to make a formal request of the Officer in Charge of flying:

Lt. Yarborough, Minda Ann Callison Bond, Lt. George Clair Bond, Mabel Edith Bond
with the Curtis Jenny flown to Abingdon, Ill. by George C. Bond in 1918

THE STORY OF MY FATHER, THE WORLD WAR I PILOT, WHO FLEW THE FIRST AIRPLANE EVER SEEN BY THE RESIDENTS OF ABINGDON, ILLINOIS

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"...to take a ship on cross-country flight from Scott Field to Abingdon, Illinois, July 27 and return July 28 for the purpose of visiting parents and gaining cross-country experience. I also request permission to carry Lieutenant Yarborough along as passenger."

Permission was granted and on July 26th *The Abingdon Kodak* quoted a letter from dad to the editor:

"The certainty of our appearance over Abingdon sometime Saturday morning now depends entirely upon the clemency of the weather and gasoline motors upon this occasion. Will you please see that a guard will be furnished for our ship."

The weather and the gasoline motor both responded well and the *Kodak* reported on their visit as follows:

"Amidst the blowing of whistles, ringing of bells, honking of auto horns, waving of handkerchiefs and shouts and applause, Lieuts. George Bond and Sam Yarborough, aviator instructors from Scott Field, Belleville, arrived in Abingdon Saturday morning a few minutes after ten o'clock, in a large aeroplane, making the trip in three hours and giving Abingdon the distinction of being the first city in Western Illinois to be visited by an Army aeroplane.

The coming had been announced in the Kodak on the previous afternoon and early in the morning the streets of the city were lined with persons eager to get a view of the first birdmen ever sent out by the government over this part of the state.

Standing in the center of streets and in open places, persons observed a tiny spot thousands of feet in the air. It moved rapidly and increased in size and a shout went up that the aviators were coming. it was then that the noise let loose, and although the aviators could not hear the noisy reception tendered them, soon after making the landing and during their entire stay in the city there could be no doubt in their minds that all Abingdon and surrounding country were here to give then a glad hand.

Lieut. Bond ... drove the machine from Scott Field. Reaching the city he guided the ship directly over Main Street, and came down near the earth that all could get a good view of the ship. After circling about for a short time, the lieutenant headed the machine for his mother's home, then circled over northeast of the city, where there were two bright eyes eagerly watching the ship and its driver (This is a reference to my mother), and then four miles south and east of Abingdon where Mr. Bond made a landing at his farm."

I interrupt the newspaper account to explain that his father had died in January of that year and left the farm to his four children, which included Dad and his sister, my Aunt Mabel Stockdale. His other brother Uncle Lloyd Bond, was a practicing electrical engineer so it was assumed that Dad, who had a background in farming, would operate the farm when he returned to civilian life. So the reference to his farm is a reference to what is now Jim Stockdale's farm.

"Knowing that the Lieutenant would land first at his farm, there were hundreds of autos there, and he was given a welcome such as would be an honor to anyone.

After a short time spent at the farm the ship was started for Abingdon and a landing made on the Reynolds farm a short distance west of the city where the plane was guarded and kept while in the city. ...

Early Saturday evening the aviators visited Galesburg ... Thousands of persons stood on the streets all afternoon watching for the ship, and when its arrival was noted, the whistles were turned loose, and another grand reception was given the daring birdmen. On this trip the ship was away only about forty minutes, yet a grand exhibition was given the Galesburg people, and old and new stunts electrified the people of the county seat.

On the return the aviators put on thrills that never before were given in an exhibition on Western Illinois.

After the flights Saturday evening the machine was again parked in the Reynolds field, and remained there until after 2:30 when Lieut. Bond went up alone and for nearly an hour gave an exhibition before a crowd estimated at not less than 10,000 ... he volplaned, gave the nose dive, double corkscrew, and made four loops in succession. Parties from a distance who have witnessed many aeroplane exhibitions, say it was the grandest show ever put on in the state.

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Hickman Family History Newsletter

Box 520
Florence, MT 59833
April 30, 1996

Dear Hickman cousins:

In January I made another trip to Virginia, this time for the funeral of my aunt, Ollie Virginia Hickman, who was born in a log cabin on the east side of Back Creek in Bath County in 1902, and who died in a modern nursing home, but in the company of her nieces, in Richmond in 1996.

The third of seven children born to Ollie Gertrude Lockridge and Peter Lightner Hickman, hers was the fourth generation of Hickmans born at what they called Sun Rise. Her father was a farmer, a justice of the county court, and a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church and her mother was the Sun Rise postmaster. There was no electricity or running water in their house, and her mother worked hard to feed the family with home-grown food cooked on a huge wood-fired range.

Forrest Elwood Hickman, **Ollie Virginia Hickman,** Roger Lockridge Hickman
In 1904 when they were about five, two, and seven years old. Forrest was born in a log cabin at Green Valley, Virge in a log cabin on Back Creek, and Roger in a home in Columbus, Ohio.

Schooling was a catch-as-catch-can sort of thing for the families living along Back Creek. Classes were held in abandoned houses, chicken coops, barns, churches, or anywhere else that could accommodate eight to fifteen kids for a few months. School locations shifted up and down the valley as the student population waxed and waned. Anyone aspiring to a higher education was obliged to leave the valley and board with relatives or friends in Warm Springs, Monterey, Millboro, or elsewhere while attending high school.

Virginia went north to Monterey in Highland County to finish her public school education, and graduated from high school in 1922 when she was 20 years old.

Peter Hickman's desire was for his daughter to become a school teacher, but she wanted to be a nurse. So, to keep peace in the family, and to satisfy her father's wishes, Virge traveled across the mountains to Harrisonburg in the Shenandoah Valley where she got a teacher's certificate at the Virginia Normal School —now called James Madison University— and went on to teach school for one year at Cedar Creek in Bath County.

With her heart still set on becoming a nurse, Virge left her familiar mountains and went east to the lowlands of Richmond to enroll in the first nursing school class at St. Elizabeth's

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Hospital in 1924. She followed that with pediatric studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. She received her public health nursing certification through the Richmond Professional Institute— now Virginia Commonwealth University.

Ollie Virginia Hickman married Warren Maxwell Campbell in 1927, the same year she graduated from the St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing. He was a "local boy" from the upper reaches of Back Creek in Highland County who was working for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad in Richmond. Virginia's grandmother had been a Campbell, and the newly weds were distant cousins —not at all unusual in that time and place. Warren was a veteran of W.W.I service in France and was nine years her senior.

She began her nursing career with the Instructive Visiting Nurses Association (IVNA), a forerunner in home health care whose nurses were sometimes referred to as the "newspaper nurses" for their habit of covering almost all surfaces near a sick-bed with newspaper. Virge later became the supervisor of nursing for IVNA, and in 1938 she moved to the Richmond city health department as a staff nurse. In 1940 she was named director of public health nursing for the Richmond department of public welfare.

Ollie Virginia Hickman Campbell (1902-1996)
About 1940 when she was Director of Public Health Nursing

Virginia H. Campbell was a well known person around Richmond, and Virginia, with her name and photo in the Richmond papers frequently from the 1930's through the 1950's. She had a self-assured bearing and a take-charge attitude and was an accomplished public speaker who enjoyed meeting new people and seeing new places. Her ability to get along well with persons of all classes and colors must have been an important aspect of her success as a public health nurse.

After leaving the Richmond City employment in a political dispute she served as the executive secretary of the Virginia State Nurses Association until 1959 when she joined her husband Warren in retirement.

My mother, brother, and I lived for four years during WWII in the attic of the Campbell home in Richmond. During that time Virge became one of my favorite, and "most unforgettable" people, who I always knew as "Tanta."

Like so many of the Hickmans, my "Tanta" suffered from arthritis and she became shorter and more bent over as she aged. But she never lost that cheerful chin-up attitude and

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sparkling sense of humor that made her such a joy to visit. She always enjoyed a joke or a good story, and could laugh at herself as well as the other guy.

In her usual well-organized manner, Tanta wrote her own obituary some 15 years ago, and she left instructions for her funeral and wake, telling us to celebrate life.

A classmate of Virge at Monterey High School was Constance Virginia Cleek (1904-1996) whose parents were Stella Pearl Lockridge (1880-1962) and Wade Hampton Cleek (1880-1951). Connie married John Lee Thompson, a young engineer rebuilding the road through Monterey, and they had three daughters. She earned a teaching certificate at the State Normal School in 1925 and was an elementary school teacher in Bath County from 1933 to 1970. Connie died in March, less than two months after Virge.

Constance Virginia Cleek Thompson (1904-1996)

In the final years of her life, Connie was a resident of The Hermitage in Richmond. My mother also lives at The Hermitage, and in January the newsletter there carried the following on the occasion of her birthday:

RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Ruth Hickman Gabriel Hardy was born on Back Creek, in Bath County, Virginia on January 16, 1908. She was one of seven children born to Ollie and Peter Hickman. Mrs. Hardy attended one-room schools in Bath County until she reached high school level. At that time, in order for her to attend high school, Ruth moved to Millboro. There she lived with her two youngest brothers in a small rented house and did the cooking, cleaning and chauffeuring. She drove the family Model-T Ford.

Mrs. Hardy has two sons by her first husband. During the 1940's, Ruth found the need to work and became a pioneer woman in the man's field of insurance. She became quite well known both in Richmond and across the state. She later became an officer in the firm of Muhleman & Kayhoe, builders of commercial and residential buildings. Following retirement, Ruth found new love and married the late Edward Ira Hardy.

One of Ruth's fondest memories was of being the sole graduate of Millboro High in 1927. Her graduation made the newspapers from coast to coast because M. L. Combs of Richmond, the supervisor of the research

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Goes 175 Miles to Award Diploma to Girl Graduate

STAUNTON, Va., July 30.—M.L. Combs of Richmond, supervisor of the research division of the Virginia state board of education, traveled 176 miles to address a graduating class composed of one person. The exercises were held at Millboro, 40 miles west of Staunton in Bath county, where Miss Ruth Hickman, the lone graduate, received her diploma. This was the first time in the history of Millboro High school that there was only one graduate. Had the graduating class of 1927 been duly organized, Miss Hickman would have been its president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, as well as sergeant at arms.

Ruth Gertrude Hickman Gabriel Hardy (1908-)
June 1927

Ruth was born the year the Model-T was put into production, and she graduated from high school the year Ford ceased making that durable automobile. The ones she drove her father bought from his nephew, Forrest Franklin Hepler (1894-1934), who had the first Ford dealership in Bath County.

A couple months ago I got a call from Helen Traugh, Braxton County Historical Society, who told me that one of the people in a photo printed in an earlier newsletters was still alive. If you look at the first page of the *Hickman Family History Newsletter* dated July 26, 1995, you will see a group photo of three generations of descendants of James Elliott Hickman and Betsey Hamilton. The caption contained many ?-? entries because I did not know the dates for those people pictured. The little girl in the photo, Jessie Iva Hunt, was able to furnish the following dates for her father, brothers, and cousin:

Isaac Newton Hunt (1877-1918)
Fred O. Hunt (1902-1982)
Jessie Iva Hunt Robinson (1904-)
Ohlen Hunt (1906-1974)
Guy Herbert Hickman (1903-1995)

I appreciate the help of Mrs. Traugh in sending Jessie's information to me

Grace Custer Ebneter, in Georgia, sent photos of her great-grandfather, Hamilton Burton Hickman (1857-1926), her grandfather, Russell Murray Hickman (1895-1954), and others, as well as some letters written by Russell Murray Hickman during his service in the army in W.W.I.

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5. **Hamilton Burton Hickman**(3/V/1857-16/III/1926)married 29/XI/1875 to Sarah Jane Young(12/X/1859-30/XII/1951)

6. Rosa "Rosie" **Hickman** (18/II/1878-21/III/1946) married (?) to John H. Ballengee (?-?)
6. James M. **Hickman** (21/II/1881-30/VI/1942) married 3/VIII/1905 to Nora Wilson (?-?)
6. Henry Preston **Hickman** (8/X/1882-9/XII/1975) married 9/XI/1901 to Nettie Bell Cart (1880-1967)
   7. Ray **Hickman** (4/XI/1902-?) married (?) Madeline Lewis (?-?)
      married (?) to Makine Butcher (?-?)
   7. Carl **Hickman** (30/IX/1905-10/IV/1962) married 4/VII/1925 to Thelma Morris (?-?)
   7. Brenford Burton **Hickman** (17/IV/1927-10/IX/1969) married 1927 to Roncy Gertrude Jones (1906-1989)
      8. Harry Preston **Hickman** (21/V/1941-) married 17/II/1963 to Yvonne E. White (?-?)
      8. Brenda B. **Hickman** (21/IX/1942-)
   7. Lillian **Hickman** (26/XI/1914-?) married 14/II/1934 to Raymond Knight (?-?)
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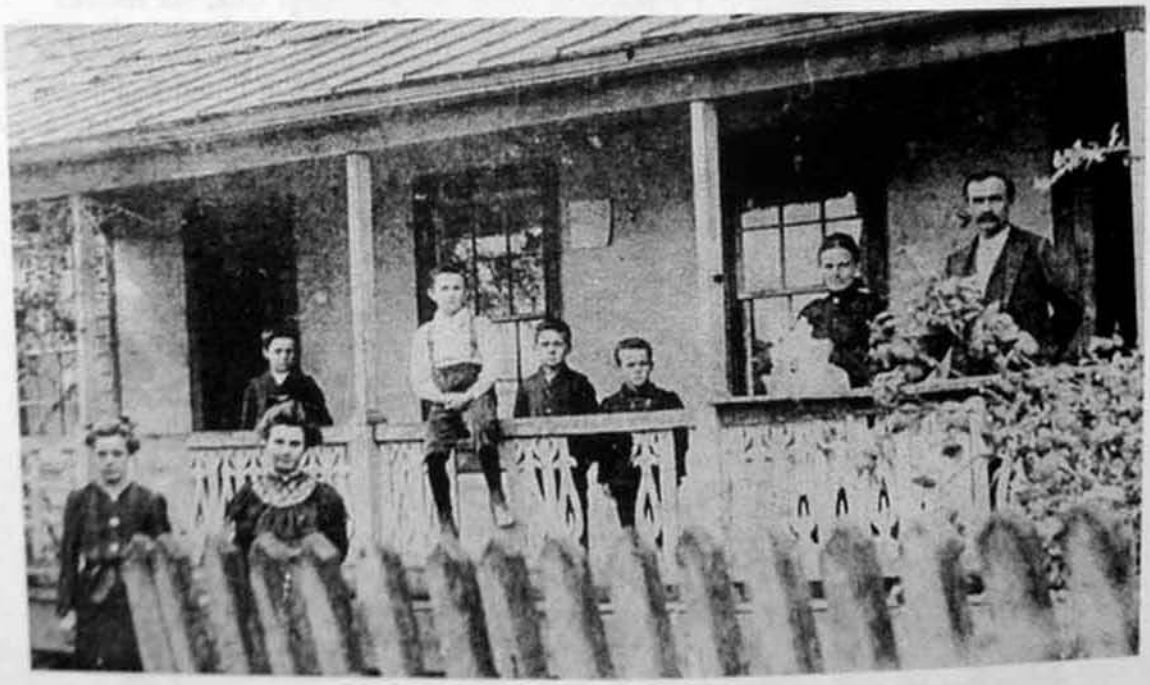

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Can anyone name the three unidentified sons in the photo sent by Brenda?

4. **James Elliott Hickman** (18/XI/1804-1885?) married 1830 to Elizabeth E. "Betsey" Hamilton (1812-ca.1857)
5. **Hamilton Burton Hickman**(3/V/1857-16/III/1926)married 29/XI/1875 to Sarah Jane Young(12/X/1859-30/XII/1951)

6. Rosa "Rosie" **Hickman** (18/II/1878-21/III/1946) married (?) to John H. Ballengee (?-?)
6. James M. **Hickman** (21/II/1881-30/VI/1942) married 3/VIII/1905 to Nora Wilson (?-?)
6. Henry Preston **Hickman** (8/X/1882-9/XII/1975) married 9/XI/1901 to Nettie Bell Cart (1880-1967)
   7. Ray **Hickman** (4/XI/1902-?) married (?) Madeline Lewis (?-?)
      married (?) to Makine Butcher (?-?)
   7. Carl **Hickman** (30/IX/1905-10/IV/1962) married 4/VII/1925 to Thelma Morris (?-?)
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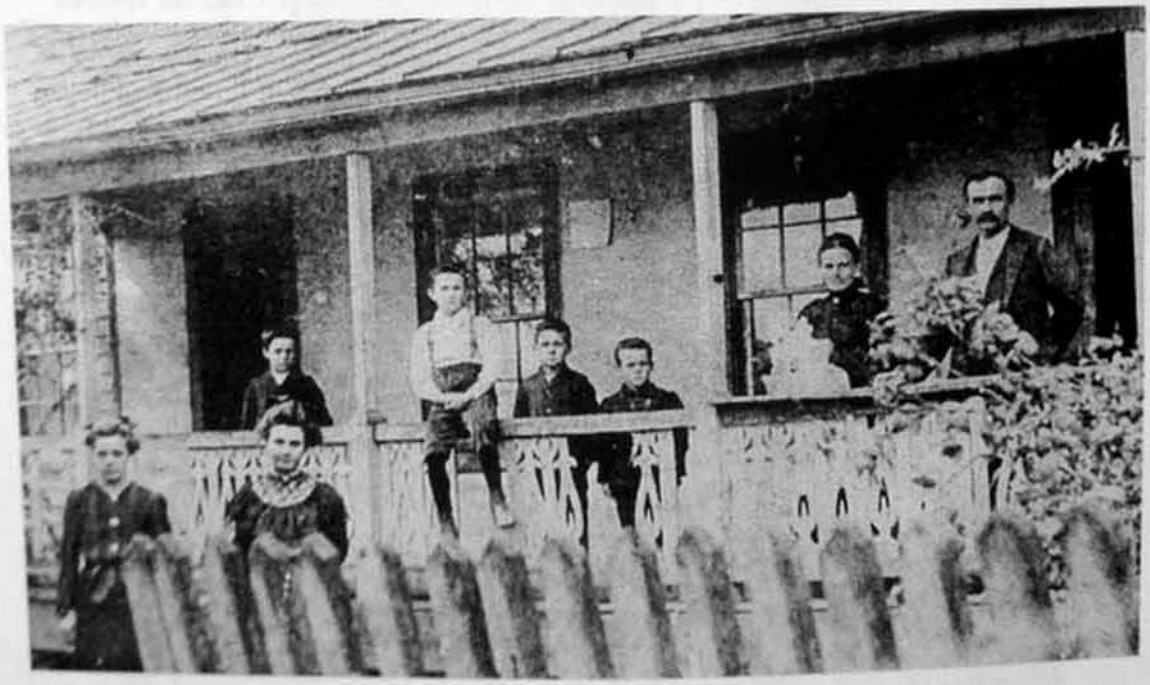

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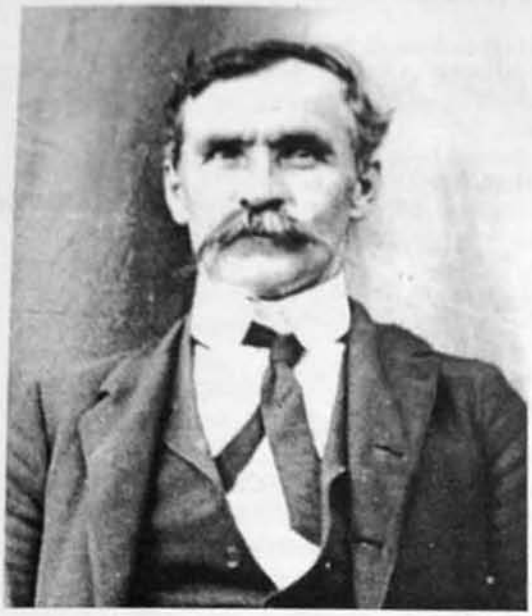

Hamilton Burton Hickman (1857-1926)
son of James Elliott Hickman

Russell Murray Hickman (1895-1954)
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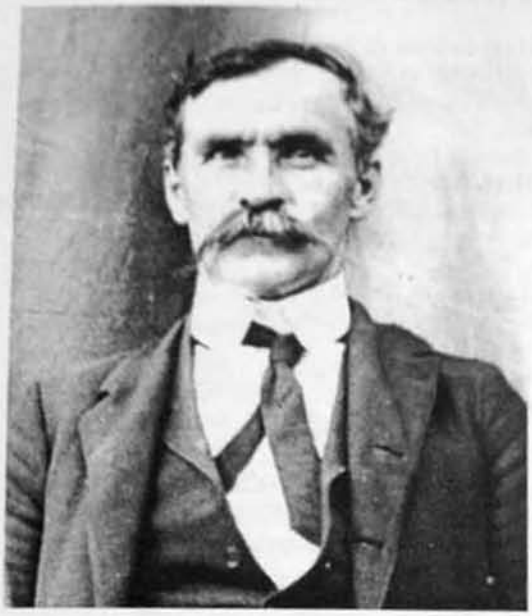
In January a nice bundle of materials sent from Florida caught up with me while I was in Texas visiting other Hickmans. The package was from Ella Fitzwater Cox, yet another descendant of James Elliott Hickman. However, since her great-grandfather was Stuart Taylor Hickman (1833-1903), and her grandfather was Watson Reed Hickman (1866-1947), she added dozens and dozens of names and dates to my list of the descendants of Elliott and Betsey Hickman, but the additions are too extensive to list here. I can print a couple of her photos.

Family of Stuart Taylor Hickman. Left to right, front row: Watson Reed Hickman (1866-1947), Stuart Taylor Hickman (1833-1903), Maria Louisa Napoleon Bonaparte Josephine Powell (1839-1917). Back row: Nannie Floyd (1861-1948), Cornelia Alice (1876-1932), Beatrice Rosalie (1879-1916), Elizabeth "Betty" Sydnor (1872-1959), Mary Agnes (1869-1959). The other son, John William (1863-1892) had gone west and he died there.



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Ella Cox was interested to see that I had knowledge of the marriage of one of the sons of **Andrew J. Hickman** —as below— and she was able to add generation 6 and 7 to the story.

4. **Andrew Johnson Hickman** (20/X/1811-24/XI/1880) married 20/XI/1834 to Delilah S. Armentrout (?-2/II/1837) married 7/XI/1837 to Nancy Wallace (1813-?)
5. Andrew A. **Hickman** (1847-18/XII/1883?) married 1875 to Amanda Fitzwater (ca1858-?)
6. Homer Fitzwater (1875-) raised by his mother as a Fitzwater
7. daughter

It seems that Amanda was the sister of Ella's grandfather. Her family never knew that she had married Andrew A. Hickman and she raised her son as a Fitzwater. Ella discovered the marriage certificate for Andrew and Amanda at the Nicholas Co. court house in 1991. Now the question is, why did Amanda keep the marriage a secret from her family, and why did her son not have the Hickman name?

Amanda married twice more and had several other children, one of which is shown with her in the next photo. Her son Homer's family lived on the next-door farm to Ella's family and it sounds like Ella will have some good stories to tell. She did a delightful, handwritten, history and genealogy for her son several years ago.

Amanda Fitzwater (ca.1858-?) wife of Andrew A. Hickman (1847-1883?)
seated, with granddaughter Beulah on lap. Daughter Mollie standing.

I am still "desperately searching" for information about the descendants of **Arthur Hickman** (1803-1884) & Rebecca Walker (1806-1879) who moved to what is now West Virginia in 1848, and his brother **Andrew J. Hickman** (1811-1880) & Nancy Wallace (1813-?) who left Back Creek in 1834. Gloria A. Barnette, Nicholas Co. Historical Society, was able to send a bit about each of those "lost" Hickmans to me.

But, I finally hit paydirt when Helen Squires Bloomquist, from North Carolina, sent me a copy of some material her mother had collected over ten years ago. She is descended from **Arthur Hickman** (1803-1884) and his daughter, Mary Matilda Hickman (1832-1912), and could add many names and dates to generations 6 and 7. She also has old photos of Mary Matilda Hickman and her husband Lewis P. McElwain (1932-1911). However, the most interesting

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I am still hoping to find photos of William and his family, and —most of all— letters written to him by his siblings between 1840 and 1864.

The Hickman family tree grows each month as the word gets around, and as I hear from new people.

However, what I am really looking for is letters, diaries, and other documents that tell of life and times of our ancestors. I already have a wonderful collection of such things saved by Roger Hickman (1813-1889), Peter L. Hickman (1858-1937), and others and they are the basis for my three volume history of the Hickmans of Back Creek. It seems to me that if my Hickman great-grandfather and grandfather saved papers, so must some other Hickman. Those papers are tucked away somewhere just waiting to be discovered.

Since sending the last newsletter I have been away from home on three trips for a total of about ten weeks. In each instance I visited Hickmans, looked at old papers and photos, heard family stories, and enjoyed the company of interesting folks. I am looking forward to meeting more "cousins" in the coming months.

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Box 520
Florence, MT 59833
August 3, 1995

Pocahontas County Historical Society
810 Second Avenue
Marlinton, WV 24954

Dear Sirs:

I am a son of Ruth G. Hickman of Bath County, Va. The Hickmans came to Virginia in the 1600's and some of them settled on Back Creek, in what is now Bath Co., in the mid-1700's. A brother of those Hickmans, Suddeth Hickman, settled further west to what would be, I think, Clarke County. Children and grandchildren of the Back Creek Hickmans moved on to Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Upshur, Braxton, Clay, and Harrison counties between 1832 and 1860.

I have inherited a 200 year accumulation of the letters, warrants, ledgers, wills, deeds, and other papers saved by my mother, grandfather, and great-grandfather. A partial inventory of some of the older papers is enclosed for your information, and I have highlighted the names of counties now in West Virginia. I hope to find a proper home in Virginia for all these papers when I am done with them.

Also enclosed is a sampling of the pages from the first volume of a three-volume history that I am compiling about the Hickmans of Back Creek. Again, I have highlighted names of counties in your state. While none of the Hickmans who went to West Virginia were my ancestors, they were relatives, and they wrote letters to my ancestors. Therefore, I would like to find out more about them to fill out the history of the family, and to add to the sketchy information in the letters.

Even though I have an 20 page outline "family tree" of the descendants of Arthur Hickman (1712-1779) that goes to the 9th generation, I have lost track of the descendants, and history, of some of the older Hickmans who moved to West Virginia. In fact, there is no correspondence from those folks after the beginning of the Civil War

I do know a bit about two or three of the later migrants after 1900. Robert Sidney Hickman (1872-1954), brother of my grandfather, was —for many years— the manager of the company store at Cass when it was owned by Westvaco and later by the Mower Lumber Co. The two owners of the Mower Lumber Co. were grand-nephews of my grandfather —the grandsons of his brother, Lanty William Hickman (1838-1906)— and I have gathered copies of many of their letters written to their mother in Virginia.

My grandfather married a Lockridge, and my great-grandfather also married a Lockridge from Pocahontas County, so I have another large family connection there. However, I have few letters from the Lockriges and have not spent much time with their history.

Rather than asking for specific information at this time, I will ask some general questions and hope that your answers may help to focus my search.

Box 520
Florence, MT 59833
August 3, 1995

Pocahontas County Historical Society
810 Second Avenue
Marlinton, WV 24954

Dear Sirs:

I am a son of Ruth G. Hickman of Bath County, Va. The Hickmans came to Virginia in the 1600's and some of them settled on Back Creek, in what is now Bath Co., in the mid-1700's. A brother of those Hickmans, Suddeth Hickman, settled further west to what would be, I think, Clarke County. Children and grandchildren of the Back Creek Hickmans moved on to Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Upshur, Braxton, Clay, and Harrison counties between 1832 and 1860.

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Hickman Family History Newsletter

Box 520
Florence, MT 59833
July 26, 1995

Dear Hickman cousins:

In June I made another "collecting trip" to Virginia and West Virginia — collecting cousins, ancestors, old documents and old photos for the three volume history of the Hickmans of Back Creek. On June 16 my brother and his wife (from Dallas, Texas) met me in Morgantown, W.Va. and we went to the home of Mary Jane Hickman DuVault for supper with her family. Among other things, she had some old photos to share, one of which is a gem showing three generations of her Hickman ancestors.

Three generations of descendants of James Elliott Hickman and Elizabeth E. Hamilton, about 1908
At center right are James William Hickman (1834-1908) & Mary Ann Marley (1838-1915), both born on Back Cr. Standing second from left is their son Lanty Stuart Hickman (1872-1955) and next to him is his brother Edward Grant Hickman (1874-1948). Seated at the far right is their sister Etta Susan Hickman (1877-1912) and behind her is her husband Isaac Hunt (?-1918). Etta is holding Jessie Iva (?-?) and Ohlen O. Hunt (1906-?) Their older brother, Fred O. Hunt (?-?), is leaning against his grandfather. Sitting in the center is Mollie Luvata Lanham (1873-1963), wife of Edward G. Hickman. She is holding their first child, Lanham Hickman (?-?). The child standing at the far left is Guy Herbert Hickman (1903-?) son of Lanty Stuart and Dora Lane. The woman standing at far left is Mint Rydell and her daughter is standing between Lanty and Ed. The other three adults standing behind James are unidentified.

Can anyone fill in the dates for births and deaths where I have the ??

Does anyone have a photo of James Elliott Hickman and/or Elizabeth E. Hamilton?

On June 17 we were joined by Ed & Yaro Brown (from Green Village, N.J.) and we all followed the DuVaults down the road to a big Hickman reunion on the farm of John Westley Hickman near Lost Creek, W.Va.. That was a wonderful experience, with dozens of Hickmans that I had not met, lots of good food, and plenty of good talk. People there helped to identify almost everyone in the photo I had copied the night before at Mary Jane's home. Among those I met were James Clinton Hickman, his wife

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Jessie, and their son Rodney who had responded to one of my mail requests last year. Jim & Jessie had, some years ago, added to the work begun by Marian Hoge MacKenzie as a start on a history of the Hickmans.

Marian, who was born on Back Creek in the ancestral home, and whose grandmother, Lula Hickman Rose (1874-1943), was a sister of my grandfather, Peter L. Hickman (1858-1937), came from Seattle, Wash., for this reunion. She had a wonderful time meeting all the "cousins" and we all owe her a debt of gratitude for beginning the collection of Hickman family stories over 20 years ago. She has been my biggest helper, critic, and booster on the larger effort I am engaged in now.

On June 18, a flock of us Hickmans who had once lived on Back Creek in Bath County, Va., met at the site of the original Hickman homestead. We had a picnic lunch, took photos of everyone under the trees planted by either William Hickman (1770-1843), or his son Roger (1813-1889), and caught up on happenings of the many years since we last were together. Present (with various spouses and children) were Marian Hoge MacKenzie and her sister Lou Grey Hoge Keeter, both of whom were born in the house built in 1799; Kent Rose and his sister Shirley Rose Powell who were born in the home of their parents about half a mile up the creek, and their brother Scotty Rose who was born after the family left Back Creek. My brother and I had lived in the next house up Back Creek —built by our grandfather in 1902.

The home of William Hickman (1770-1843), Roger Hickman (1813-1889), and Lula Georgia Hickman Rose (1874-1943) in 1936 photo.

We discussed possible locations for one or two historical markers concerning the Hickmans on Back Creek. Then Marian led an "expedition" into the woods to visit the slave graveyard that is all grown over with trees now. We did find 17 graves, mostly marked with field stones, but two still had carved stones. One of those marked the grave of Martha M. Robinson (1846-1923) a white woman who was the wife of John Anson Robinson who had been born a slave on June 4, 1858, and grew up on the farm with my grandfather who had been born four months earlier. Martha died in her home, known later as "the John house," down the road from grandfather's house on March 5, 1923. My mother and uncle remembered sitting up all night with her body as people did in those days.

Two other cemeteries along Back Creek contain the Hickman graves but we did not visit them this time.

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Joining us at the homesite picnic was Georgie Roberta Grace Hickman Gibson, who was the only child of George Roger Hickman (1880-1912), the youngest brother of my grandfather.

George Roger Hickman about 1912

Kent and Scotty Rose, and their nephew Sam Howell, have recently purchased three properties on Back Creek just below the old family homestead and Kent and I stayed in Scotty's place for the rest of the week while we visited other relatives in Bath County. Marian and Lou Grey visited with Georgie Gibson in Covington for a week or two. We all happened to arrive at the Bath County Historical Society on the same day and gave the ladies there a hilarious summary of life on Back Creek in the 1920's, 30's, and 40's.

Kent and I went to talk with the Virginia Power people about placing a historical marker on the Company property at the site of the old Hickman homestead. The next week I got a letter saying that Virginia Power was agreeable to the proposal and that they would pay for the installation, but that I would have to pay for the marker itself. I then met with them again and we picked a site and a general design for the marker. Now I have to contact the companies who make historic markers, and the State of Virginia sent me a list of those supplying bronze or aluminum markers. Virginia Power came up with a list of companies supplying stone markers.

Less than half of you returned the "interest" questionnaire from the last newsletter, so if anyone else is interested in helping pay for this, please let me know.

While in Warm Springs, I met Brenda Hickman from Gassaway, W.Va., and her cousin Grace Custer Ebneter, from Peachtree City, Ga., who were in there digging up old Hickmans. We told them how to find the Sively cemetery where our ancestors are buried and I shared some of my data with them. I have heard twice since from Grace.

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On June 20 I attended the funeral of Emma Sue Hepler Snider (1903-1995) at the Woodland Union Church near Millboro Springs in Bath County. Her grandmother was Matilda Margaret Hickman (1854-1935), a sister of my grandfather. Like several of her sisters, Emma Sue was a school teacher. She was also the Hepler family historian and I was fortunate to have spent a day with her last year copying some of her records and photos, and tape recording her stories. The old-timers are slipping away and I wish that I had started this project 10 or 20 years earlier when there were more people alive to tell the stories about those who wrote the many letters I have dating from the 1770's to the 1970's.

William Brown Hepler & Hattie Lee Goddin with ten of their thirteen children. Left to right: Lula Jessie, **Emma Sue**, Virginia Margaret, Ruth Goddin (who wrote the letter to Santa), Stella Malvina, Merlin Judson, Laura Jane, Charles William, Minnie Lee. William is holding Mary Frances. About 1916.

While in Bath County I visited with Emma Sue's brother and sister, and a niece and nephew and got some family data that she had not given me the year before.

I also spent one afternoon in the Bath County Courthouse copying some more info from the will books.

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William P. Hickman (1810-1864)

Date	Written from
27-Feb-1833	Lexington, Rockbridge
10-May-1833	

- handwritten

The Hickmans have a long association with the town of Cass, W.Va., and with the two lumber companies that used to own it. So, I went to Cass to see if I could locate the home of Robert Sidney Hickman (1872-1954). He was a brother of my grandfather and Marian's grandmother, and I have a photo of the house with which I could locate the lot, but the house is gone. Robert S. Hickman was the manager of the huge company store in Cass, known as the Pocahontas Supply Company, from about 1900 to about 1945, and the store building is still there, but used now for tourist shops, a cafe, and a museum.

Uncle Robert's Packard. Julia M. Hickman, James D. Hoge, Hallie Grey Rose Hoge, George W. Rose, Lula G. Hickman Rose, **Lou Grey Hoge**, George Hoge, **Marian Hoge**, **Robert S. Hickman**. About 1925.

Further up the hill, above where "Uncle Robert" lived, is the house where Frank Edwin Mower lived when he owned the town of Cass, the company store, the sawmill, and the railroad. His mother was a Hickman and he was the uncle of Ed Brown who was at the reunion with us in Lost Creek, W.Va. The remainder of the former Mower Lumber Co. property is now a state park. Ed's grandmother, Mattie Lockridge Hickman Mower, I knew as "Cousin Lockie" when she lived across the street from my uncle Fred Gabriel in Waynesboro, Va.

Ed has shared with me a large collection of old letters and photos saved by his grandmother and mother dating from the 1870's to the 1960's— including some from his uncles telling how they started the Mower Lumber Company.

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Mattie Lockridge "Lockie" Hickman (1879-1967) with her children in 1912
Frank Edwin Mower & Reginald Wiley Mower, standing; Marjorie Lockridge Mower, seated, and Donald Roger Mower on arm of chair.

The girl at bottom left, Marjorie Lockridge Mower (1908-1989), is the mother of Edwin B. Brown.

The people in the next photo are the children and grandchildren of Lanty William Hickman (1838-1906), the oldest brother of my grandfather and a Civil War cavalryman. Ed and I have lost track of the descendants of the Hickmans in this photo. Does anyone know what happened to them or their children?

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Descendants of Lanty W. Hickman outside home of John R. Hickman, Clarksburg, W.Va., 1913
Girl seated on pillar on left is Marjorie Lockridge Mower; directly beneath her is her mother, Mattie Lockridge Hickman; standing directly to her left is Mary Elizabeth Hickman; seated to her left is her daughter Mary Folk. Seated on Mary's lap is her child Anna Elizabeth Mack. Man with bow tie is John R. Hickman; to his left is his wife Viola. They are parents of Kathleen on the right pillar. Standing to left of Kathleen is Frances Hickman. Man at top on right is H.M. Hickman; below to his right is his wife Pearl. Next to Pearl on her left is L.W. Hickman; seated in front of him is his wife Myrtle; on her lap is their son John Roger Hickman

Another collection of old papers came to light this year when Kent and Scotty Rose managed to open an old roll-top desk that had been jammed shut since their family moved from Back Creek in 1941. In it they found two tin boxes containing old deeds and a number of old ledgers dating from the 1880's to the 1930's. More wonderful stuff to add to the history of the Hickmans of Back Creek.

Then, in Richmond my cousin Neva Hickman Strong found two cardboard boxes full of old papers belonging to her father Julian K. Hickman (1911-1964) who had been Commonwealth's attorney of Bath County, a federal judge in Harrisonburg, Va., and a perpetual candidate for office as a republican when there were no republicans in Virginia. I spent nearly a week in Richmond sorting those papers and putting them in file folders and new file boxes so that they can go into the third volume of the family

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history. I already had many of Julian's letters written to his siblings, but we know there are more yet to be found.

So, I returned home with over 1,100 more old papers, deeds, letters, etc. and about two dozen old photos from the Hickmans and Lockridges. Papers and photos that will eventually find their way into the three volume history.

However, the most exciting part of my trip was going to Pulaski County, Va., to find the final resting place of the Rev. William P. Hickman (1810-1864). He was a brother of my great-grandfather, the second Roger Hickman (1813-1889), and was also a brother of James Elliott Hickman (1804-18?? *does anyone know when he died??*) who is the ancestor of most of you living in West Virginia. I have 78 letters written by William P. Hickman to Roger Hickman from 1833 to 1860 but he was killed in battle in 1864 and I have lost track of his descendants.

Well, on Hickman Cemetery Road I found the Hickman Cemetery and the graves of William and his wife Margaret, four of their children and thirteen grandchildren. I am now trying to locate living descendants with the hope that someone may have saved some letters to William from his brothers or sisters.

Descendants of William P. Hickman

4. **William P. Hickman** (23/II/1810-9/V/1864) married ca.1843 to Margaret Hoge (12/IX/1821-2/III/1904)
   5. Elizabeth "Eliza" Jane **Hickman** (1844-7/IX/1872) married (?) to Edward Huff (1846-19/III/1871)
      6. Edward Huff (?-?)
   5. Mary Crockett **Hickman** (19/VIII/1846-29/IV/1917) married (?) to William A. Chumbley (22/X/1841-22/I/1917)
      6. William Harper Chumbley (6/VII/1867-10/V/1927)
      6. Edgar Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Susie Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Frederick Chumbley (1874-1947)
      6. Bessie Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Mary Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Margaret Chumbley (?-?)
      6. James H. Chumbley (1885-1947)
      6. Clem (Clementine?) Chumbley (?-?) she married a ? Stone
      6. Myrtle W. Chumbley (26/II/1890-27/V/1971)
   5. James Brown **Hickman** (18/XI/1848-?)
   5. Emily Susen (Emma Sue) **Hickman** (?/XI/1850-29/I/1862)
   5. William White **Hickman** (31/XII/1852-9/XI/1854)
   5. John Hoge **Hickman** (9/III/1855-?)
   5. Kate Lyle **Hickman** (27/XII/1856-27/XII/1918) married(?)to John M. Brown (6/XI/1851-5/II/1917)
      6. Percy Lynn Brown (30/I/1878-3/V/1884)
      6. Percy Lyle Brown (30/I/1878-8/V/1884)
      6. Myrtle Reid Brown (3/IX/1881-8/V/1884)
      6. Roy M. Brown (25/V/1883-13/IV/1924)
      6. John Richard Brown (3/VIII/1884-21/III/1948)
      6. Kate Hickman Brown (19/V/1891-1/XII/1891)
      6. William Allen Brown (30/X/1896-11/XI/1898)
   5. Lelia Lowry **Hickman** (6/XII/1858-?) married (?) to Charles Einstine (?-?)
   5. Maggie L. **Hickman** (?->1877) married to William N. Gilliam (?-?)

By these various discoveries the family tree grows.

history. I already had many of Julian's letters written to his siblings, but we know there are more yet to be found.

So, I returned home with over 1,100 more old papers, deeds, letters, etc. and about two dozen old photos from the Hickmans and Lockridges. Papers and photos that will eventually find their way into the three volume history.

However, the most exciting part of my trip was going to Pulaski County, Va., to find the final resting place of the Rev. William P. Hickman (1810-1864). He was a brother of my great-grandfather, the second Roger Hickman (1813-1889), and was also a brother of James Elliott Hickman (1804-18?? *does anyone know when he died??*) who is the ancestor of most of you living in West Virginia. I have 78 letters written by William P. Hickman to Roger Hickman from 1833 to 1860 but he was killed in battle in 1864 and I have lost track of his descendants.

Well, on Hickman Cemetery Road I found the Hickman Cemetery and the graves of William and his wife Margaret, four of their children and thirteen grandchildren. I am now trying to locate living descendants with the hope that someone may have saved some letters to William from his brothers or sisters.

Descendants of William P. Hickman

4. **William P. Hickman** (23/II/1810-9/V/1864) married ca.1843 to Margaret Hoge (12/IX/1821-2/III/1904)
   5. Elizabeth "Eliza" Jane **Hickman** (1844-7/IX/1872) married (?) to Edward Huff (1846-19/III/1871)
      6. Edward Huff (?-?)
   5. Mary Crockett **Hickman** (19/VIII/1846-29/IV/1917) married (?) to William A. Chumbley (22/X/1841-22/I/1917)
      6. William Harper Chumbley (6/VII/1867-10/V/1927)
      6. Edgar Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Susie Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Frederick Chumbley (1874-1947)
      6. Bessie Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Mary Chumbley (?-?)
      6. Margaret Chumbley (?-?)
      6. James H. Chumbley (1885-1947)
      6. Clem (Clementine?) Chumbley (?-?) she married a ? Stone
      6. Myrtle W. Chumbley (26/II/1890-27/V/1971)
   5. James Brown **Hickman** (18/XI/1848-?)
   5. Emily Susen (Emma Sue) **Hickman** (?/XI/1850-29/I/1862)
   5. William White **Hickman** (31/XII/1852-9/XI/1854)
   5. John Hoge **Hickman** (9/III/1855-?)
   5. Kate Lyle **Hickman** (27/XII/1856-27/XII/1918) married(?)to John M. Brown (6/XI/1851-5/II/1917)
      6. Percy Lynn Brown (30/I/1878-3/V/1884)
      6. Percy Lyle Brown (30/I/1878-8/V/1884)
      6. Myrtle Reid Brown (3/IX/1881-8/V/1884)
      6. Roy M. Brown (25/V/1883-13/IV/1924)
      6. John Richard Brown (3/VIII/1884-21/III/1948)
      6. Kate Hickman Brown (19/V/1891-1/XII/1891)
      6. William Allen Brown (30/X/1896-11/XI/1898)
   5. Lelia Lowry **Hickman** (6/XII/1858-?) married (?) to Charles Einstine (?-?)
   5. Maggie L. **Hickman** (?->1877) married to William N. Gilliam (?-?)

By these various discoveries the family tree grows.

Rev. William P. Hickman

Among the countless victims of this cruel war, not many will be more deeply lamented than the pastor of the Presbyterian church at Bell Spring who fell in the fight with the Yankee raiders near Dublin while bravely defending his home against the invaders. Though past the military age, he had connected himself with the Home Guard of Pulaski county, and had on former occasions shown himself willing to take up arms in a cause to which he was ardently devoted.

During the hottest of the fight, being near one of the guns, and seeing the soldiers who supported it shot down, he rushed forward to take their place, and almost immediately fell, mortally wounded in the body. The last words he was heard to speak were "Do your best, boys, my work in ended!" — words worthy of a patriot, and Christian soldier.

No truer man, nor braver heart is left behind him. Falling into the hands of the enemy, and finding him in citizen's dress, they chose to consider and speak of him as "a bushwhacker" and it is supposed that he was brutally treated by them. He was left on the field in a dying condition for thirty-six hours without any attention whatever, and died immediately after being removed to a neighboring house.

He had, for a few months past, been in part supplying the church in Salem in the absence of its pastor as chaplain in the army and had greatly endeared himself to the people during his brief ministry. We deeply sympathies with his bereaved widow and children, and lament his loss not only as a dear friend, but as a gifted and devoted minister of the Gospel.

"Servant of God, well done!
Rest from thy blest employ;
The battle fought, the victory one,
Enter thy Master's joy.

The voice at midnight came —
He started up to hear:
A mortal arrow pierced his frame;
He fell, but felt no fear.

Tranquil amidst alarm,
It found him on the field,
A veteran slumbering on his arm,
Beneath his red-cross shield.

Soldier of Christ, well done!
Praise be thy new employ;
And while eternal ages roll,
Rest in they Savior's joy!"

Salem, Va. May 20th. FJ

"Bushwhacker" was the Yankee name for Confederate guerrillas, or irregular non-uniformed troops, whose mission was to harass the Union Army behind its lines. The following is an excerpt from the memorial in the Presbytery minutes of June 2, 1865:

BATTLE OF CLOYD'S MOUNTAIN:
THE REV. MR. HICKMAN'S DEATH

"Bro. Hickman fell fighting for civil and religious liberty at Cloyd's Farm on Monday, May 9, 1864. When the sound of cannon and the tramp of the enemies cavalry were heard approaching his humble home, threatening destruction, as well as the most cherished rights of humanity, he volunteered to join a company assigned to the duty of supporting a Brigade of Artillery; and it was while eagerly and bravely discharging this duty that he fell mortally wounded. After calling to his stripling son (who had run to his relief) to never mind him, but to fill his place in the ranks. And after that son and others nearby had been overpowered by numbers and driven from the field, he was allowed by the enemy to remain that evening and all day Tuesday without adequate attention; and it was not until Wednesday the 11th that his spirit took flight. Kind female friends were permitted to sit by him and minister to his wants during Tuesday, but were driven from the place when night came and not permitted to sit and watch with him. On Wednesday morning he was taken to a neighboring home but died a few hours afterwards. He was calm and composed while thus lying in intense suffering and had no fear of death. He was born in Bath county, February 23, 1810. Not until 1842 was he licensed to preach by Lexington Presbytery. As a preacher he was strong, clear and vigorous in thought and style."

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This brief account is found in *The War in Southwest Virginia, 1861-65*, by Gary C. Walker, 1985:

> "The home guard was called out of church in Christiansburg, and told to form. At the Dublin Presbyterian Church the Reverend William P. Hickman 'urged his congregation to rally to the Confederate cause.' Even though he was over age he left the pulpit to join the volunteers."

The family tree also grows with the contributions of those, like Kathryn Hickman Collins of Port Chester, N.Y., and John & Joyce Wyatt of Carey, Ohio, who send me what they have discovered about their twigs and branches of the tree. They are both descendants of James Elliott Hickman (1804-18??) who was a brother of my great-grandfather, the second Roger Hickman (1813-1889), and who was born in the house on Back Creek built by William Hickman in 1799 and torn down about 1975 when Virginia Power built the Back Creek pumped storage project.

I would like to hear from others who can tell me about their parents and grandparents. And I would particularly like to hear from folks who have old letters and photos of those people. When I travel I carry a copy machine, a computer, and a scanner so that I can make copies of the documents right in your kitchen or living room, or wherever I find them.

I was gone from home for 4 1/2 weeks and still did not get to visit with everyone. I apologize for not making it back to West Virginia again, but I just ran out of steam —and I got homesick for my Montana landscape "where the skies are not cloudy all day."

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